

PRESS RELEASE**Contact:**

Tabitha Grossman, Chief External Relations Officer

804.986.3493

tgrossman@nctresidencies.org**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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NCTR and EdReports Launch New Partnership to Help Teacher Residencies Use High-Quality Instructional Materials

With support from a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR), a national organization focused on supporting high-quality teacher residencies, and EdReports, a non-profit curriculum reviewer, are hosting a series of workshops to develop a shared understanding of curriculum literacy and to design pilot courses in which curriculum literacy plays a prominent role. The ultimate goal of the project is for the participating three NCTR partner teacher residencies to use high-quality instructional materials as a lever for improving equity.

“This project fills an unmet need in the field of teacher preparation. We have to start talking about using high-quality instructional materials long before teachers show up on day one to teach in a classroom” said Eric Hirsch, Executive Director of EdReports. The project will ultimately culminate in a report that will document the lessons learned and make recommendations to the field of teacher preparation at large. “It will be important to document the work these three residencies undertake and then make recommendations to the field for what should happen next,” said Tabitha Grossman, Chief External Relations Officer at NCTR.

After a competitive Request for Proposal process, NCTR accepted Alternative Pathways to Education Certification Program (South Carolina), Kern High Teacher Residency (California), and William Carey University School of Education (Mississippi). Each residency will participate in three workshops that NCTR and EdReports will co-develop and facilitate. Student Achievement Partners is acting as an adviser to the project. The project is designed to answer a number of questions around the challenges in designing a teacher education curriculum that is aligned to high-quality instructional materials and makes use of those materials. It is also designed to determine how teachers can decipher whether or not students have learned how to use high-quality instructional materials.

In schools across the country, the need for new and effective educators to join the more than 3.5 million existing K-12 teachers is more pressing than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic compounds existing inequities in the school system. RAND Corporation survey data from the 2019-2020 school year shows that roughly 70 percent of students were not being exposed to standards-aligned content on a regular basis. The lack of aligned materials leads teachers to hunt for content online—a behavior that increased as a result of the pandemic—often leading to inconsistent quality that impacts low-income, students of color the most.

Teacher residency programs are an ideal environment to equip emerging teachers with the skills to fully utilize quality curricula rather than searching for or developing their own materials. Residency programs train teachers already working in the field and specifically train them to serve in high-need schools across the nation. This project leverages this moment in a teacher's journey by providing them with the skills necessary to identify and utilize standards-aligned instructional materials in support of students.

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About NCTR: The National Center for Teacher Residencies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing, launching, supporting, and accelerating the impact of teacher residency programs. Headquartered in Chicago, NCTR's mission is to disrupt historical educational inequities by advancing the teacher residency movement to prepare effective, diverse, culturally responsive educators. For more information about NCTR, please visit [www.https://nctresidencies.org/](https://nctresidencies.org/)

About EdReports: EdReports is an independent nonprofit that publishes free reviews of instructional materials, using an educator-designed tool that measures standards alignment, usability, and other quality criteria. The reports help districts make informed purchasing and instructional decisions that support improved student outcomes. Visit www.edreports.org to learn more about its mission.