**Ohio Teacher Shortage**

Ohio needs more high-quality teachers. Over the last 6 years, enrollment in Ohio traditional preparation programs has dropped by more than 50%– from 31,322 enrolled in 2009 to 14,096 enrolled in 2016 according to US DOE Title II data.[[1]](#endnote-1)

Current Ohio enrollment also shows a severe shortage of diverse teachers. Only 14% of teachers[[2]](#endnote-2) enrolled in educator preparation programs are non-white. This does not even come close to reflecting the student population.

Alternative certification will provide the additional teachers Ohio needs. By attracting career changers into the profession, these certification programs attract significantly more diverse candidates in the subject areas most needed by Ohio schools. A recent study[[3]](#endnote-3) showed that our own Teachers of Tomorrow program has 46% non-white enrollment which more closely matches the diversity in our schools.

These programs will be fully accountable to upholding the highest standards for Ohio educator preparation programs. All programs must be approved and must fully align to Ohio teaching standards. Programs also must go through an extensive review by the Ohio Department of Higher Education and will be reviewed throughout the life of the program. Additionally, all programs submit very detailed annual performance metrics[[4]](#endnote-4) for reporting that are posted to be used school districts and consumers about which programs are delivering high quality teachers. These metrics are used by the Ohio Department of Higher Education to discipline programs that are not upholding Ohio standards. Ohio has very strong accountability and complete transparency built into the system to ensure that all educator preparation programs continuously meet Ohio student needs.

There are only 4 alternative certification programs in Ohio. By allowing this change, Ohio can ensure that we have the right number of teachers, increase teacher diversity, while ensuring fully accountability and transparency of all programs operating in the state.

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1. US DOE Title II Website, <https://title2.ed.gov/Public/Report/StateHome.aspx> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. US DOE Title II Website, <https://title2.ed.gov/Public/Report/StateHome.aspx>, state highlights, race/ethnicity [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. “Racial and Ethnic Diversity Across Teacher Preparation Providers and Programs”, <https://teachforamerica.app.box.com/s/d8eyhfd03563kbs6jojmiu7kr6ax8ci3> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Ohio Higher Ed Website for Educator Preparation, <https://www.ohiohighered.org/educator-preparation/transparency-accountability> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)