

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION NEWSLETTER

MAY2024

The Office of Higher Education (OHE) newsletter describes the

**REMINDER: STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (BIRTH THROUGH GRADE 2) AND NEW STUDENT TEACHING REGULATIONS BY JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

In November 2023, the Department asked each institution offering a registered teacher preparation program leading to the Students with Disabilities (Birth – Grade 2) certificate listed on the Inventory of Registered Programs (IRP) to complete and return [Statement of Assurance Form](#) by July 1, 2024, to [OCUEdapps@nysed.gov](mailto:OCUEdapps@nysed.gov). More information about this can be found in the November 2023 [OHE Newsletter](#).

In addition, as noted in the March 2024 [OHE Newsletter](#), recent regulatory changes affecting

## THE GROW YOUR OWN (GYO) INITIATIVE

The growing demand for diverse, qualified educators has escalated in post-pandemic years, most especially in low socioeconomic and rural areas. The concept of GYO programs— that is, looking from within schools and communities for the next generation of teachers— is an innovative approach that not only fosters the development of a diverse and skilled teaching workforce, but also ensures the sustainable growth and enhancement of the entire educational ecosystem.

On September 6, 2023, Governor Hochul signed Chapter 350 of the Laws of 2023, which amended Education Law §305 to include the creation of guidance on Grow Your Own (GYO) initiatives to encourage LEAs to develop partnerships that will serve to attract underrepresented candidates into the teaching profession.

In response to the amended law and understanding that challenges of educator recruitment, development, and retention vary between each LEA, the Department has created a [dedicated website](#) and suite of guidance materials for LEAs to use in the development of GYO initiatives aimed at attracting school and community members into the field of education and providing them support on their path to certification. We believe that there is an accessible GYO initiative here for any LEA that would like to tap into their local community to expand and diversify their educational staff.

Our process for developing these guidance materials included consulting with IHEs and the latest research on teacher development, national GYO programs, and underrepresented populations in educator roles. We also engaged in conversations with LEA leadership across New York State to learn about their current GYO initiatives, successes, and advice that they would provide to other LEAs looking to implement GYO programs. These guidance materials present promising GYO initiatives that are currently in practice and address New York's GYO Focal Points:

- Recruiting underrepresented candidates including those who are current teaching assistants.
- Creating early recruitment pipelines beginning in secondary schools.
- Establishing partnerships between LEAs, community-based organizations, and institutions of higher education.
- Identifying funding opportunities available to LEAs which will aid in attracting and supporting candidates on their pathway into education professions.

The guidance materials include an overview of essential GYO program elements, the GYO program process, and a description of the multiple certification pathways currently available in New York State. We provide information on early recruitment pipelines, cohorts and mentorship, GYO partnerships, dual credit education courses and articulation agreements, memoranda of understanding, and more.