



Tennessee Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (TACTE)

Priorities for Education Policy - 2026

1. The State of Tennessee should develop a coherent vision for teacher licensure that appropriately balances the need for rigor in educator preparation and the need to limit barriers to entering this important profession for promising potential candidates.
2. Wherever feasible, educator preparation pathways should have consistent, reasonable, and rigorous requirements for licensure that reflect the state's vision.
3. Systemic state-wide strategies for high-quality new teacher induction and early career mentorship should be embraced, developed (or enhanced), funded, and executed by the State of Tennessee in partnership with school districts, schools, and Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs).
4. Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) should be purposefully invited to engage in timely discussions of any contemplated changes to statutes, regulations, policies and/or guidance that impact teacher licensure, educator preparation, or more broadly PreK-12 education. The Tennessee Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (TACTE) represents the rich diversity of the state's EPPs and is an important voice in this dialogue.
5. Creative solutions to addressing specific shortages for teachers should be grounded in research and excellence in practice, in which EPPs have deep expertise and can advise.
6. The State of Tennessee should invest in innovative solutions and proven strategies to enhance educator and leader preparation in the Volunteer State. This could include high quality leadership development, compensating mentor teachers, and making permanent the Tennessee Future Teachers Scholarship.
7. Once an educator preparation policy initiative has been enacted through a clear and transparent process, unless there are glaring unintended or negative consequences, the initiative should be given ample time to take hold and for data to be analyzed before changes are contemplated.
8. All Educator Preparation Providers preparing Tennessee teachers and leaders (including out-of-state EPPs) should be held to clear and rigorous standards and expectations.
9. An educator licensure period that runs from September 1st to August 31st no longer reflects the majority of school calendars in Tennessee and should be revised to a July 1st through June 30th cycle.