

**PR Award #:** S336S220042

**Organization Name:** American University

**Address:** 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016

**Program Contact:** Dr. Carolyn Parker

**Phone:** 202-885-6259

**Email:** [caparker@american.edu](mailto:caparker@american.edu)

**Absolute Priority:** 2

**Competitive Preference Priorities:** 1 - 4

**Invitational Priority (GYO):** Y

**Requested Total Award Amount:** \$1,961,217

### **Project Description:**

The Residency for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (RETL) is an innovative Master's program that is being developed through a unique initiative that will leverage the resources and expertise of a partnership between American University's School of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, Urban Teachers, and the Friendship Public Charter Schools (FPCS).

Four foundational practices will support RETL's activities: a) a residency model; b) research-based teacher education that includes practice-based teacher education, anti-racist teaching, the science of learning; c) a focus on socio-emotional learning, and d) explicit integration of early literacy.

The program is an integral component of various teacher pipeline initiatives at the School of Education including the [Advancing Early Education Collaborative \(AEEC\)](#) and initiatives in [special education](#). The purpose of the partnership is to recruit highly motivated preservice teacher candidates who are dedicated to teaching in diverse early childhood and special education settings (PreK- grade 3). The partnership enables participants to complete a residency-based master's degree with an initial teaching license in early childhood education or special education: learning disabilities in 15 months. RETL provides a living stipend to participants and reduced tuition to one of two American University's School of Education's master of arts degrees. RETL would place teacher candidates in cohorts of 4-5 teacher candidates in up to three elementary schools of the Friendship Public Charter School network. Each teacher candidate would be paired with a qualified mentor teacher. We would like to place teacher candidates in the schools in the academic years: 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027. Mentor teachers would have to have taught for at least three years, be recommended by each school's leadership, and be willing to be interviewed by RETL personnel.

The structure of RETL's coursework and preservice teaching experience is modeled after existing residency partnerships in Boston (Boston Teacher Residency), Chicago (Chicago Teacher Residency), and Denver (Boettcher Teachers Program). Supported by the National Center for Teacher Residencies, all three such programs have demonstrated an impressive track record for recruiting and retaining new teachers: Boston a 90% retention rate after 3 years, in Chicago 95% retention rate after 4 years, and in Denver a 100% retention rate also after 4 years. In comparison, the national retention rate is 84%, although that figure is lower in many urban districts (Marvel, J., Lyter, D.M., Peltola, P., Strizek, G.A., and Morton, B.A., 2006).

### **Project Expected Outcomes:**

- Prepare between 40 and 48 new ECE and SPED teachers for one high need LEAs over five years (10-12 teacher candidates in years 2-5), who graduate from the program on time, attain State certification, and pass all necessary assessments.
- Serve 1200 early childhood and special education students in one high need LEAs
- Expand pipeline of new early childhood and special educators.
- Recruit, prepare, support, and retain 40-45 diverse preservice early childhood and special education teachers in schools with high concentrations of high need students.

**Project Partners:**

partnership between American University's School of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, Urban Teachers, and the Friendship Public Charter Schools (FPCS).