

TEACHING FUNDAMENTALS: SKILLSETS AND MINDSETS



School districts around the country are facing a major teacher shortage. According to data from the U.S. Department of Education, all 50 states – including the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands – reported a teacher shortage for the 2021-2022 school year (*Teacher Shortage Areas, 2022*). While school and policy leaders work to combat the shortage through substitutes and paraprofessionals, it is important to maintain the high level of excellence that students deserve from their educators, while instilling the same standard of excellence in aspiring educators. That is where *Teaching Fundamentals: Skillsets and Mindsets* comes in.

Developed and tested with 894 aspiring educators from Massachusetts, *Teaching Fundamentals: Skillsets and Mindsets* draws upon six key modules from the *Educators Rising Curriculum* to provide lessons in pedagogy and professionalism to inspire individuals to become educators.

IMPLEMENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

To best meet the needs for education agencies around the country, *Teaching Fundamentals: Skillsets and Mindsets* can:



STUDENTS INTERESTED IN BECOMING EDUCATORS

Introduce students to the education profession and build interest in an Education & Training program. When students complete the lessons, they will be able to demonstrate their learning through hands-on experiences in a classroom environment. Students will create lesson plans, practice professionalism, and build confidence in their teaching skills.

PARAPROFESSIONALS AND EXISTING EDUCATORS

Act as a professional development opportunity for paraprofessionals and existing educators at the beginning of the year to foster positive teaching practices. The lessons included in *Teaching Fundamentals* allow paraprofessionals and existing educators to reflect on and continue to hone the skills utilized every day in their classrooms.



SUBSTITUTES (BETA)

Provide substitutes with the entry-level skills necessary to effectively manage a classroom. As leaders around the nation work to address the teacher shortage, requirements for individuals to be substitutes in the classroom are being shaved down to the bare minimum. School districts can leverage *Teaching Fundamentals* to maintain a standard of excellence in the classroom. We are in the process of piloting this program with substitutes.

RESOURCES

To support users with the implementation of *Teaching Fundamentals: Skillsets and Mindsets*, Educators Rising provides a teacher leader guidebook that offers a flexible six-week lesson scope and sequence that can be adapted to the individual needs of the learners and their schedules.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Teaching Fundamentals: Skillsets and Mindsets is built upon six key modules from the *Educators Rising Curriculum* and is centered on the [Educators Rising Standards and Cross-Cutting Themes](#). In addition to PowerPoint lessons that can be implemented during classroom instructional time or during a meeting after school, *Teaching Fundamentals* also includes guided notes worksheets for each lesson topic. The six lesson topics and their corresponding objectives are as follows:



PROFESSIONALISM

- Explain what professionalism is and why it is integral to teaching.
- Discern how successful professionals manage a synthesis between maintaining their values as individuals and upholding the values and policies of the institutions that employ them.

INTRODUCTION TO BIAS AND EQUITY

- Define bias and its significance in educational settings.
- Describe how preconceptions can limit students.
- Explain how an educator's understanding of equity or lack thereof influences student growth and development.

SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

- Define the goals of small group work.
- Describe the benefits of and appropriate contexts for small group work.
- Describe and practice techniques for setting up and managing small group work.

DESIGNING SINGLE LESSONS AND SEQUENCES OF LESSONS

- Define and explain the purpose and composition of single lessons and sequences of lessons.
- Describe strategies and methods for creating increasingly sophisticated lesson plans that foster a culture of excellence within learning environments.

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING

- Describe how to foster safe, supportive classrooms that help students build confidence and discover their individual voices.
- Describe strategies for integrating cross-curricular, real-world, and global connections into instruction effectively.
- Analyze how strategically-designed norms and routines can promote mutual respect and rapport and support the growth of all students.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

- Describe innovative methods for administering creative, thought-provoking formative assessments that engage and motivate students while measuring their abilities and current levels of competence.
- Design a formative assessment to check understanding during or at the conclusion of a lesson.

Ready to learn more? Reach out to our Outreach and Engagement Coordinators at edpartnerships@pdkintl.org or (800) 766-1156.

