

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Office of K-16 Initiatives and Access Programs
Teacher Development Programs Unit

TEACHER OPPORTUNITY CORP (TOC)

Purpose...

...to enhance the preparation of teachers and prospective teachers in addressing the learning needs of students at risk of truancy, academic failure or dropping out of school and to increase the participation rate of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged individuals in teaching careers.

Eligibility...

...competitive grants are awarded to institutions of higher education that offer approved programs in teacher preparation leading to professional certification (that is, programs registered by the New York State Education Department for teacher education purposes.) Institutions proposing to administer projects through formal articulation agreements with schools/districts having a high concentration of teachers not certified in their content areas and/or students at-risk, including schools under registration review (SURR), are given highest priority.

Target audience...

...TOC serves full-time undergraduate/graduate students, or part-time graduate students completing the requirements for initial/professional certification.

First priority: to individuals identified as underrepresented and underserved in the teaching profession such as African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and American Indian or Alaska natives.

Second priority: to any individual economically disadvantaged in accordance with the criteria established in the statute for the TOC program.

Third priority: to any individual whether or not historically underrepresented in teaching or economically disadvantaged.

Program services...

...TOC provides specialized coursework to address the needs of at-risk student, coordinates supplemental field placements at low performing schools and links graduates with mentors during the first year of teaching. TOC projects also provide support services such as counseling, academic advising and supplemental research experiences.

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Chapter 53 of the Laws of 1987

Results

- novice teachers gain successful classroom management skills
- teachers are trained to meet the needs of at-risk students
- more teachers from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds in teaching

Projects Study and Implement Best Practices in Teaching

- share information about recent research, school needs, and teaching practices through the K-16 Professional Development Network,
- provide laboratory for observing, planning and teaching at-risk students
- partner with professional practice schools
- field test inquiry-based learning
- utilize research-based practical training
- design specialized curricula for at-risk students

FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011

Appropriation: \$671,060

Projects Funded: 14

Range of Awards: \$10.7K to \$74.8K

Average Award Amt.: \$47.9K

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND - 1987-2009

Total Appropriation: \$22,933,060

Total TOC Graduates: 2,561

SELECTED PERFORMANCE DATA - 2010

62 graduated

93% of TOC participants who took the LAST certification exam passed

97% of TOC participants who took the ATS-W certification exam passed

263 participants

121 undergraduate participants

142 graduate participants