

1100 17th Street NW, Suite 500
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Dear Colleagues:

During the past four years, the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality (TQ Center) has been committed to addressing the complex factors that impact educator quality. One of the most persistent and vexing challenges in public education is the assurance that *all* students have equal access to high-quality teachers. During his presidential campaign, Barack Obama articulated the importance of equitable distribution at the National Education Association meeting on July 5, 2007:

We know that making a promise to educate every child with an excellent teacher is right....
We know that it's right to close the achievement gap that exists in too many cities and towns, and that it's right to focus on the inequitable distribution of resources and qualified teachers in our schools.... We also know that right now, we need the best teachers in the most challenging classrooms—those underserved, underachieving schools in parts of rural and urban America where we need to make “these kids” “our kids” again.

This challenge is once again at the forefront of national conversations on education reform thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which cites the equitable distribution of effective teachers as a key goal for states and districts. As a result, the TQ Center has continued to monitor federal guidance and develop tools and strategies to assist regional comprehensive centers (RCCs) and state education agencies (SEAs) in addressing this challenge—beginning with the national webcast on May 21, 2009, to review the research base followed by your participation in this workshop, “Addressing Inequities in the Distribution of Highly Qualified and Effective Teachers: A Workshop to Move Research and Policy Into Action.”

Throughout the next two days, participants will work together in teams of RCC and SEA officials to develop specific and focused action plans that will assist in addressing state equitable distribution issues. Participants will attend working sessions focused on three specific criteria essential to the development of actionable steps:

- Defining equitable distribution metrics for your state.
- Working with local education agencies to collect and analyze data.
- Aligning state needs with action strategies.

I am confident that by the conclusion of the workshop, participants will have developed short-term and long-term action plans that can be used to purposefully address state equitable distribution issues. Thank you for coming, and enjoy the workshop.

Sincerely,



Sabrina W.M. Laine, Ph.D.
Director
National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality