New teachers and school leaders are faced with myriad challenges: closing achievement gaps, the implementation of new curricula and assessments rooted in more rigorous standards, and the increasing linguistic and cultural diversity of American students, among others. Postsecondary preparation programs for teachers and school leaders play a key role in equipping educators with the knowledge and skills they need to meet these challenges and support successful students and schools.

The Appalachia Higher Education Consortium (AHEC) provides a forum for leaders of preparation programs, as well as state officials, to consider how data and evidence can be applied to strengthen the training provided to new educators. The consortium will identify the needs of preparation programs in the region and develop strategies for meeting these needs through evaluation and research-based practices.

**GOAL OF THE CONSORTIUM**

The goal of the consortium is to support members in:
- Comparing approaches to new program certification requirements across the four states—Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- Connecting the research base on teacher and administrator preparation with the training opportunities currently provided by certification programs.
- Identifying the strengths/limitations of existing measures of program quality and considering the adoption of new measures.
- Leveraging extant data maintained by postsecondary organizations—such as data in state longitudinal data systems—to examine outcomes of interest.

**POSSIBLE RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Consortium members will partner with REL Appalachia to:
- Organize forums on issues of interest, such as: research-based strategies to ensure data literacy for educator preparation programs; measures of program quality; candidate admission criteria; and candidate performance in program.
- Catalog state requirements related to clinical preparation.
- Catalog features of state preparation program admissions requirements, accountability measures, and data systems.
- Analyze data maintained by member institutions as part of assessing progress toward goals.

**BECOMING A CONSORTIUM MEMBER**

Consortium members can participate in projects or provide feedback on them. You may choose the level of commitment right for you. The consortium is open to higher education institutions and state and local agencies and offices working in the areas of educator preparation or students’ postsecondary outcomes.

Questions?
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