

GROW YOUR OWN



KENTUCKY'S EDUCATOR PIPELINES

August 2025

A Message from the Interim State Coordinator

Hello Teaching and Learning Leaders,

Camille Overstreet has transitioned from her role as state coordinator for Educators Rising and the Teaching and Learning Career Pathway, and I am serving as interim until a new consultant is in place.

Action Item: To ensure we have an accurate count of chapters and programs for the year, as well as the most up-to-date contact information, [please complete this Grow Your Own Programs Inventory form](#). Your response will help us provide the best support and resources as we start the new school year.

If you are no longer the correct contact person, please forward this email to the appropriate party.

Elly Gilbert



KENTUCKY

Educators Rising Kentucky

**Educators Rising National Ambassador Application
Opens Aug. 26**



Registered Teacher Apprenticeship

Teacher apprenticeship is an “earn and learn” pathway to a teaching credential that provides structured, paid, on-the-job learning experiences combined with job-related technical instruction and mentorship. Teacher candidates serving as apprentices are paid by their employer while they participate in the program, helping to make their pathway into the profession more affordable.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) approved the first nationally registered K-12 teacher apprenticeship program in January 2022, opening the door to a rapidly growing pathway for prospective teachers. DOL

interested in a state or national office. Check the [Educators Rising National Ambassador webpage](#) for the application and more information.

Tips for a Great Year

A new school year means new opportunities to inspire the next generation of educators! Whether your chapter is brand new or a long-standing tradition, taking intentional steps now will set the tone for a successful year.

Recruit Early and Often

Kick off the year by inviting students to join Educators Rising at back-to-school events, club fairs or during lunch periods. Share your chapter's mission and the exciting opportunities available – from competitions to service projects – and encourage friends to bring friends.

Launch with Purpose

Plan a first meeting or event that builds community and excitement. Consider an icebreaker focused on why students want to teach, a small service project for staff, or a fun activity that gets everyone talking and connecting. Elect your chapter officers, revisit your chapter bylaws and start a social media account to share the great work you are doing!

Start Preparing for State!

While there will be a few subtle changes to the competitions and rubrics from last year's Educators Rising State Conference, most of the competitions will remain largely the same. It's never too early to begin working with your students on their projects, practicing skills and reviewing guidelines. Early preparation not only boosts confidence, but also increases the chances for success at both the state and national levels.

Important Dates

- **State Conference:** Kentucky Exposition Center: March 5, 2026
- **Regional Leadership Conferences:**
 - Asbury University: Oct. 23, 2025
 - Campbellsville University: Nov. 7, 2025
 - Murray State University: Nov. 10, 2025
 - Northern Kentucky University: Nov. 21, 2025

Please note, regional conferences do not determine if students qualify for state conference. Regional

state's Office of Employer and Apprenticeship Services.

Learn more about [Kentucky's Registered Teacher Apprenticeship programs](#) on the GoTeachKY website.

EdRising Vision:

To eliminate the teacher shortage by reimagining educator pathways.

EdRising Mission:

To inspire and grow current and rising educators to become community leaders and advocates for high-quality education.

Connect with Educators Rising

[Instagram \(National\)](#)

[Instagram \(KY\)](#)

[Facebook \(National\)](#)

[Facebook \(KY\)](#)

[LinkedIn \(National\)](#)

[LinkedIn \(KY\)](#)

CONTACT

[KDE Grow Your Own](#)

2025-2026 Educators Rising State Officers

President:

Hunter Carr, Region 1

President-Elect:

Lily Russell, Region 6

Director of Communications:

Haley Chowning, Region 3

Director of Communications:

Kelly Esquivel Hernandez, Region 3



TEACHING AND LEARNING CAREER PATHWAY



Teaching and Learning Career Pathway

Recruiting future teachers is essential to addressing Kentucky's teacher shortage and increasing workforce diversity – and no one is better positioned to start this process than current educators. Recently, the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board named *Education* one of the state's Top Five In-Demand Sectors, underscoring the importance of early recruitment.

A strong Grow Your Own program combines the Teaching and Learning Career Pathway with Educators Rising, Kentucky's career and technical student organization (CTSO) for future educators. The pathway provides formal classroom training, while Educators Rising builds leadership skills, personal attributes, and real-world application.

This Fall:

1. **Connect Pathway to Purpose:** Share stories, invite guest speakers, and highlight alumni in education.
2. **Integrate Career Exploration Early:** Expose students to diverse education careers and help them set goals.
3. **Link with Educators Rising:** Encourage pathway students to join for competitions, conferences, and leadership roles.

Thinking Ahead:

If your school does not yet have a Teaching and Learning Career Pathway, now is the time to start planning for implementation next year. It's easier than you might think! Contact us at [KDE Grow Your Own](#) to get started.

Resources:

Teachers/advisors may access resources for the



address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use help.govdelivery.com.

[Kentucky Department of Education](#).