



# Tomorrow's Teachers Fund

A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

The nationwide and statewide shortage of teachers has grown even greater since the pandemic. Teaching vacancies also have increased as teachers leave the workforce. This shortage of qualified teachers and the rise in teaching vacancies harm student learning, reduce teacher effectiveness, imperil the teaching profession, and threaten our nation's systems of free and universal education.



The number of **UNFILLED** education positions in Virginia have grown by nearly **62%** in the past 3 years (2018-2021)

## GROUNDWORK FOR PREPARED TEACHERS

One of four key factors driving the current teacher shortage is a national decline in teacher preparation enrollments. Between 2009 and 2014, enrollments in traditional teacher preparation programs fell 35%. This corresponded with a 23% decrease in candidates completing teacher preparation programs during the same period.

UVA offers a high-quality teacher preparation program that prepares teachers to meet the needs of all learners in their classrooms. Graduates from UVA's distinguished teacher education program are consistently rated by employers as ready to meet the diverse needs of students. However, the cost of entry into the profession is a significant barrier for many prospective teachers, particularly teachers of color. To ensure affordability and accessibility, the University has created the Tomorrow's Teacher Fund.

## A SOUND SOLUTION

Teacher preparation programs are essential to the success of PreK-12 students. Graduates from UVA's programs leave with a professional teaching license, verifying that they have met all competencies for licensure prior to entering the classroom. One alternative practice, such as provisional licensure for teachers, provides a short-term solution for schools and is an option for those who are unable to afford a teacher preparation program. However, it is imperative that we provide opportunities for teachers to receive high-quality preparation prior to entering the classroom. The proportion of provisionally licensed teachers in a school division has been shown to have a negative association with student achievement. Also, beginning teachers without comprehensive preparation are two to three times more likely to leave the classroom after their first year when compared to those who have completed comprehensive preparation programs. High rates of teacher attrition have negative impacts on student learning outcomes.

## TODAY'S OPPORTUNITY

The new Tomorrow's Teachers Fund will provide \$15,000 per student per year to approximately 100 students in our Teacher Education program. Support covers half of the program cost for Virginia residents or a semester of tuition for non-Virginia residents.

The initial goal is to raise \$3 million in current use funds, which will be offered to students upon acceptance to the program, starting in fall 2024. Ultimately, an endowment of \$30 million will be established to support the program in perpetuity by providing up to \$1.5 million annually for tuition assistance. Naming opportunities include naming the fund with a single \$30 million gift or to name separate scholarships with multiple gifts ranging from \$3 million to \$10 million.

Help prepare future teachers to excel in their professions. Your gift to the Tomorrow's Teachers Fund will help us set teachers on the best path for tomorrow's classrooms.



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**HONOR**  
*the* **FUTURE**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

## CONTACT

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