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TEACHFORAMERICA

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Teach For America Statement on U.S. Department of Education's Guidance on Resource Comparability

New York, NY (October 01, 2014) — We applaud the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights for its focus on ending persistent disparities in educational resource access, and we are glad that the Department recognizes that effective teachers are one component of ensuring equity across our nation's schools. All students deserve a teacher who receives high-quality orientation, mentoring, peer support, opportunities and time for professional collaboration, and high-quality professional development programs that are sustained and intensive.

We believe that states and school districts should be encouraged to use a variety of data points to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of teachers. We commend the Department for recognizing that "one strategy to improve outcomes is the development of high-quality pipelines of new teachers in high-need and rural schools." We agree there also must be a focus on teacher retention in high-need schools, including incentives for teachers rather than forced transfers.

Given the numerous factors that should be part of looking at our teachers' impact, we concur with the Department that teacher experience alone should not be a direct measure for teacher effectiveness. As a provider of new teachers, Teach For America believes that it is critical to continuously understand our impact. For example, in the 2013 study from the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education, Teach For America math teachers demonstrated test score gains equal to an additional 2.6 months of school.

We look forward to working with the broad range of stakeholders who play a critical role in ensuring all children have access to a quality education. Working together, we can end resource disparities and create an equitable, high-quality education system.

About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Today, 10,600 corps members are teaching in 50 urban and rural regions across the country while more than 37,000 alumni work across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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