The Los Angeles Educator Pathways Partnership is an unprecedented collaboration between the L.A. Compact, its Institutions of Higher Education Collaborative, other higher education institutions, and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

The partners share a common goal of supporting all students in LAUSD to graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college and careers. To that end, the partners have agreed to work together to investigate best practices and drive continuous improvement in teacher preparation programs to enhance teacher quality and student learning in LAUSD. This work is being conducted as the field of education, from Pre-K through higher education, experiences significant changes in terms of assessment, accountability and transparency. The changing nature of the field presents tremendous opportunities for the partnership to seek new ways to better prepare, recruit, support and retain effective educators in LAUSD.

While the partners have collaborated through various initiatives in the past, and have shared data for various purposes, they recently signed a one-of-a-kind agreement to undertake a coordinated regional data sharing and research effort. The agreement represents an innovative way to work together to improve teacher quality in response to the changing nature of public education, while protecting student, candidate, and employee data.

Through a year-long planning effort, the partners, many of whom place a significant proportion of their teacher candidates in teaching positions in LAUSD, developed a shared mission to investigate which characteristics of different teacher preparation pathways have the highest impact on the academic achievement of LAUSD students. By matching teacher candidate preparation data, with student, school and employee data, the partners will be able to look across all of the partner institutions to identify successful practices and existing gaps in teacher preparation, retention and support, understand why these gaps exist, and take action to address them.

LAUSD has undertaken this collaboration in order to proactively improve the teacher pipeline in Los Angeles. Although the district has been severely impacted by budget cuts and layoffs in recent years, there is now a need for increased hiring, and it is critical at this juncture to deepen efforts to ensure that new teachers are well-prepared to serve students.

The partners have committed to this unique, collaborative approach to use data to drive continuous improvement because they recognize that recruiting, supporting, and retaining effective educators requires a long-term commitment from a broad set of stakeholders.