

Partnerships are beneficial to candidates within Grow Your Own (GYO) programs and the dedicated educators managing the programs. Pooling resources between neighboring LEAs and institutions of higher education increases support, opportunities, activities, and events for all involved. Below are sample conversation starters that can be utilized in forming GYO partnerships.

- *We have GYO candidates interested in the early elementary and elementary levels. Are there teachers in your school who would be interested in extra sets of hands in their classrooms to assist with teaching activities?"*
- *We have a paraprofessional in our GYO program who is pursuing their teaching certification in [English, math]. Our Teachers of America (FTA) club is interested in connecting with teacher education programs across the state due to there not being programs nearby for us to visit in person. We were hoping we could coordinate with your office in arranging a virtual event, or connecting with a college or university that would be interested in sending program representatives to us for a presentation or discussion panel."*
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- *"We're wrapping up the first year of our early recruitment pipeline extracurricular club for high school students interested in becoming teachers. As a natural partner with teachers, would you be interested in co-hosting our end-of-year celebration and award ceremony with us for our current club members and your future union members?"*
- *"We're starting up a GYO program and have been inspired by the GYO program(s) you've created. Could we set up a time to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to learn more about the initiatives you've implemented?"*
- *"We have a diverse GYO candidate who could flourish by working with a mentor with a similar background, so they can more fully visualize themselves as the amazing educator they'll become. Do you have a diverse educator who would be interested in hosting our candidate and guiding them through job shadowing experiences?"*
- *"We're starting up a GYO program and were wondering if you would be interested in creating one as well. If so, it would be great to connect to share ideas, resources, and learn about the process together."*

- *"We're starting up a GYO program and think your [education program] would be an excellent component for our candidates. Could we set up a time to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to discuss how we may implement the [education program] into our GYO pathway?"*
- *"We would like to develop a GYO program for our district paraprofessionals to pursue their classroom teacher certifications. Could we set up a time to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] with your certification officer to learn about TA to teacher certification options and perhaps schedule a presentation the officer could deliver to our potential candidates?"*
- *"Our district has a joint partnership with [school district] and we are working together in expanding our individual GYO programs. We have some ideas for education curricula that would be great for BOCES to offer our candidates. Could we set up a time to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to share our ideas and discuss next steps to implement the curricula we have in mind?"*

- *"We recently completed a needs assessment regarding the current and projected educator vacancies within our schools and would like to set up a time with you to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to discuss our needs in relation to the programs you offer and local candidates who are interested in pursuing their certifications."*
- *"We are starting up a GYO program for paraprofessionals in our schools to advance their certifications. We would like to set up a time with you to [meet in-person, meet virtually, chat over the phone] to discuss residency possibilities for them through your educator preparation programs."*

- *"Some of our Future Teachers of American trap2(e)(e)(t)-(i).B(W(m)-5(e)-3(r)55(-A)-2) of 5(e)-"*