



Childhood Special and General Education Teacher Residency Program



Research shows that teacher preparation programs with hands-on practice in a real classroom produce more effective teachers who stay in the profession longer and strengthen schools. To help prepare more well-trained, culturally responsive educators, Bank Street Graduate School of Education partners with select New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) districts through the Childhood Special and General Education Teacher Residency Program. The two-year residency program supports high-quality teacher preparation for public school educators who are pursuing initial general and special education certification in teaching.

Bank Street's partnership with NYCPS districts represents a shared commitment to equity in education. Program participants incorporate a culturally responsive and anti-racist pedagogy in classrooms to support

children, families, and communities, with a focus on helping children and adults construct knowledge around biases, building relationships, and working together to enact meaningful change.

Our Approach

The Childhood Special and General Education Teacher Residency Program is grounded in Bank Street's developmental-interaction approach to teaching and learning, which recognizes that individuals learn best when they are actively engaged with materials, ideas, and people. Combined with New York State Education Department's Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework, the program immerses aspiring teachers in a public school classroom to deeply develop teaching skills and techniques to help meet the diverse needs of all students.

Through experience, students learn to construct developmentally responsive learning experiences that encourage all learners to follow their curiosities and create accessible curricula so all students can explore literacy, literature, mathematics, science, arts, and social studies content. Students also learn how to plan for and develop collaborative partnerships with families and school professionals.

The Program

The unique program combines 52 credits of coursework with immersive teaching experience in a New York City public school. First-year graduate students participate in a full-time paid residency teaching in grades 1-6 general, special education, and integrated settings while taking graduate-level courses at Bank Street. Residents teach alongside an experienced teacher and are supported by an advisor from Bank Street who visits each resident's classroom every month. To strengthen their instructional practices, students meet weekly with their advisor and a small group of other graduate students to discuss challenges and successes that arise in their schools, reflect with their shared advisor and each other, and collaborate on problems of practice. In the second year, students are eligible to be hired as full-time NYCPS teachers and, upon graduation, are qualified for dual certification in general and special education.

Students in the program receive a scholarship that reduces tuition by just under 50 percent, along with a stipend. The program culminates in a Master of Science in Education, eligibility for dual certification in Childhood Education and Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), and the opportunity to apply for a full-time head teaching position in a New York City public school.