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Become the Best Teacher You Can Be

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BECOME THE BEST TEACHER YOU CAN BE

STEP 6

Become a Teacher Leader

Mentor colleagues. Take a student teacher. Mentor new teachers. Lead a book club. Craft curriculum. Serve on improvement committees. Present at conferences. Develop workshops. Publish your works. Do classroom research. Be an advocate for public education.

STEP 5

Connect with Other Teachers

Many schools offer professional development communities that will help nurture your growth as a teacher. But also think about communities that connect teachers across school districts, like one of the National Writing Project sites across the state. Or follow the blog of a teacher you admire or join one of the regular twitter chats sponsored by professional organizations.

STEP 4

Choose Professional Development

School districts offer many opportunities for professional development. Think carefully about those offerings, considering your long-term goals. Make sure to challenge yourself and attend sessions that truly match your needs and interests as a developing teacher.

STEP 3

Start a Graduate Program

Continue learning about research/practice connections by taking graduate courses at your local university. Ask yourself, "What do I want to improve about my teaching?" and find courses that meet your needs and interests.

STEP 2

Join a Professional Community

Become part of the community of English teachers across the state and nation. Join professional organizations like the National Council of Teachers of English, the Michigan Council of Teachers of English, the International Reading Association, and the Michigan Reading Association. As a member, you receive journals filled with current research and learn about conferences.

STEP 1

Begin your Journey

Choose an accredited undergraduate institution where you'll learn both the content knowledge of English studies and the pedagogical knowledge of how to teach English to all students.