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**Improving the preparation of K-12 teachers: Contributions from physics education research<sup>1</sup>**

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Physics education research can contribute to efforts by college and university faculty to improve the preparation of K-12 teachers to teach physics and physical science. Examples are used to demonstrate the need to help teachers deepen their understanding of basic topics and to illustrate how a research-based curriculum can assist in this process. Evidence is presented of the impact on student learning in K-12 classrooms.

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