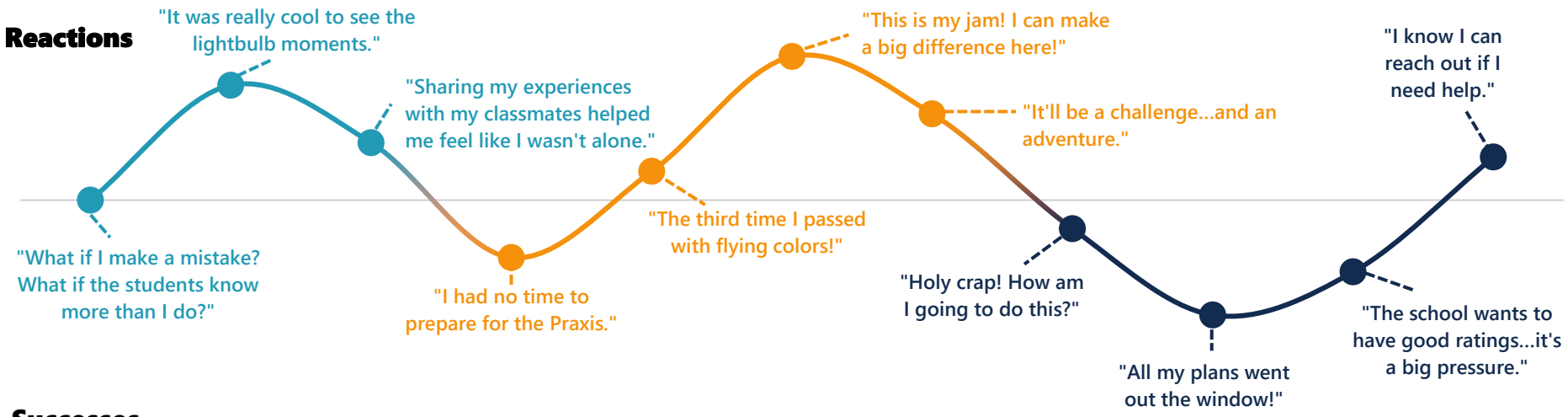
Teacher Prep Journey Map

The data below is based on interviews with three first-year teachers in Cohort 1 of the Teacher Prep Program. All three interviewees graduated from the university and were hired by high-needs schools in South Carolina.

Coursework | **Practicum/ Internship** | **Taking the Praxis** | **Getting Hired** | **First Year of Teaching**

Reactions



Successes

- Spending lots of **time in the classroom** observing and teaching
- Discovering what teaching is like and **finding my own path**
- Passing all **initial certification** requirements
- Feeling **welcomed, excited, and supported** during initial job interviews
- Learning to **trust my instincts** and make decisions that are best for my students
- Building **strong relationships** with fellow teachers in the school and district

Challenges

- Trying to explore **different ideas and strategies** in someone else's classroom
- Struggling to **put educational theories into practice**
- Feeling **too busy** to participate in Praxis bootcamps
- Needing to **retake one of the exams**
- **Delaying my start date** because of administrative issues
- Adjusting to the **demographics** and **expectations** of a new school environment
- Not knowing how to support students with **IEPs and behavioral challenges**
- Receiving **conflicting advice** from mentors

Sources of Support

- Processing my experiences with both **faculty** and **classmates**
- Navigating Praxis and certification logistics with guidance from **faculty**
- Conferences, summer institute, classroom supplies, an extra mentor, monthly meetings for training and advice
- Reaching out to **other teachers** for support