

Grantee Name: The School Board of Broward County
Project Name: **The TEACHER** (*Transitions to Education and Accelerated Certification* options through *Higher Education Response*)
Project Director: [Elisa Calabrese](#) 954-236-1191
Partner Districts/LEAs: Broward County Public Schools

TEACHER (*Transitions to Education and Accelerated Certification* options through *Higher Education Response*) **Project** creates a model competency-based alternative certification program and provides a coordinated plan to deliver this model to 250 quality mid-career professionals and recent college graduates to teach in Broward's high-need schools in the critical subject areas of elementary education, English/language arts, English as a second language, foreign languages, mathematics, reading, science, social science, and special education. Non-education trained teachers on a temporary certificate will become professionally certified through a blended (face-to-face and online) delivery that can be converted into graduate credit toward an advanced degree. This project enlists a cadre of collaborators (Nova Southeastern University, Florida Atlantic University, and Southern Regional Education Board) to improve alternative routes and professional training for non-education trained prospective teachers and current teachers teaching in high need subject areas in struggling schools. All participants in the program will receive a mentor trained in Coaching for School Improvement. In addition, after program participants complete their professional certification program they will receive guidance and support to continue their studies to earn reading endorsement through an approved professional development program. This project's goal is to expand the pool of quality mid-career professionals and recent college graduates who become highly qualified to teach in critical core subject areas and professionally certified. The expected outcomes are to enhance the quality of the teacher candidate pool; effectively prepare teachers to meet educational needs of their students and improve student achievement; increase the number of professionally certified teachers; and increase teacher retention. It also contributes solutions that will streamline the recruitment, selection, hiring, placement, and tracking systems to secure the highest quality teachers for Broward's high need schools.