

**Grantee Name:** Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC)

**Project Name:** T2T<sup>09</sup>: A Transition to Teaching Expansion Project

**Project Director:** Liz Storey, 270-563-2113, liz.storey@grrec.ky.gov

**Partner Districts/LEAs:** 20 school districts in central and west-central Kentucky, including:

Adair County	Cloverport	Metcalf County
Allen County	Independent	Monroe County
Bowling Green Ind.	Cumberland County	Ohio County
Breckinridge County	Edmonson County	Owensboro Ind.
Butler County	Elizabethtown Ind.	Russellville Ind.
Campbellsville Ind.	Grayson County	Todd County
Caverna Independent	Green County	
	Hart County	

The Green River Regional Educational Cooperative will partner with Western Kentucky University and 20 high-need, rural school districts to expand existing alternative routes to teacher certification in math, science, foreign language, other content areas, and special education, and eliminate barriers specifically related to content coursework. In addition, **T2T<sup>09</sup>** will further embed those initial routes as a tool for rural districts through new incentives, new support and new community guidance. The project will also design and implement new alternative routes, including certification in Moderate/Severe Disability (MSD) and Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (preschool, IECE) – both shortage areas in our schools. **T2T<sup>09</sup>** will include working with university faculty to develop additional online, I-TV, and/or alternative coursework to further eliminate barriers for our rural candidates, some of whom live more than 100 miles from any certification program. Finally, we will evaluate and address district-hiring practices that limit the effectiveness of recruitment efforts and, therefore, the application pool. Through **T2T<sup>09</sup>**, we will increase the number of participants who become teachers of record (100 candidates); ensure up to 90% receive certification; and create supports that keep those high quality teachers in our 20 districts for at least three years. We will concentrate on the identified shortage areas of secondary math and science, foreign language, preschool and special education. Candidates will be mid-career professionals with a Bachelor degree in a high-need area; para-professionals with life experience with special needs students or in preschool; and recent college graduates.