

Grantee Name: Hillsborough County Public Schools

Project Name: The Science and Mathematics Accelerated Readiness for Teaching (SMART)

Project Director: Scott D. Richman, 813-840-7032, srichman@sdhc.us

Partner Districts/LEAs: Hillsborough County Public Schools

The Science and Mathematics Accelerated Readiness for Teaching (SMART) project, proposed by the Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) is designed to provide high quality comprehensive support to individuals pursuing full teacher certification in the high needs areas of mathematics and science. SMART partners with Tampa BayWorkforce Alliance (TBWA) to provide recruitment and pre selection induction and is designed to recruit and attract only career changers and recent college graduates who have experience or a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and are willing to teach in a high needs school for a minimum of three years. Goals include: 1) Recruit and place project participants as science and mathematics teachers in high needs schools, 2) Increase the efficacy of the alternative certification program to support an accelerated path to certification/licensure for project participants, and 3) Retain highly qualified participants as science and mathematics teachers in high needs schools. Expected outcomes include: 1) the number of participants with STEM backgrounds in the applicant pool at high needs schools will increase by 20% annually, 2) The number of participants with STEM backgrounds who become teachers of record in mathematics and science at high needs schools will increase by 20% annually, and 3) the number of participants who gain state certification at an accelerated rate will increase by 50%. SMART proposes to begin Year 1 with 30 participants, adding participants each year for a five year project total of 250 participants. Activities for SMART are specifically tailored for the project and include: 1) targeted recruitment at universities, 2) a year-long professional development series that integrates science and mathematics content and pedagogy, 3) an accelerated time frame of one year to receive state certification, and 4) incentive scholarships to defray costs of National Board Certification or a Master's Degree in Education