

PR Award #	U350A110032
Name of Organization	The School District of Palm Beach County, Florida
Name of Project	The "I-TEACH" TTT project
City, State	West Palm Beach, Florida

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The I-TEACH project is proposed for funding under the Transition to Teaching (TTT) Program, CFDA 84.350 (A), by the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), Florida, a high need LEA as defined in section 2102(3) of the ESEA. This TTT project proposes to establish a recruitment, placement, induction, and retention model that will target high quality mid-career changing professionals and recent college graduates with non-education degrees to teach in high-need secondary schools for a minimum of three years. Special emphasis will be placed on recruitment of qualified individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM subject areas, including minorities and women. Over the course of the grant project, the I-TEACH accelerated teacher preparation program will provide a structured alternative certification program, consisting of high quality professional development and intensive mentoring support, to produce a minimum of 100 highly qualified teachers who earn their full state teacher certification in core academic fields in which teacher shortages have been demonstrated, especially in math and science, within 18 months.

Through I-TEACH, the SDPBC will collaborate with three primary project partners - Palm Beach County Workforce Alliance, New Teacher Center, and Scripps Institute of Florida - to accomplish the project's measurable outcomes: 1) the number of high quality mid-career professionals and recent graduates who are recruited and placed as teachers of record in SDPBC high-need secondary schools will increase by 20% annually; 2) the number of project participants who complete the accelerated I-TEACH alternative certification program and earn their state teaching certification within 18 months will increase by 20% annually; and 3) the number of highly qualified project participants who remain as teachers of record in the high need schools for at least three years will sustain a retention rate of at least 95% per year. An external evaluator will work with the project director to assess the project's effectiveness with respect to the identified measures and project implementation.