

## **SUCCEED Florida – Teacher Certification Fact Sheet**

The purpose of the SUCCEED Florida Teacher Certification grant is to increase the capacity of teacher preparation and certification programs at public and private postsecondary institutions in order to produce more teachers who will enter the workforce in Florida.

Florida is facing a teacher shortage of unprecedented proportions. According to the Florida Department of Education, the number of teachers needed for the 2006-07 school year is 29,604. This number reflects vacancies due to population and subsequent enrollment growth, class size requirements, and attrition. Additional projections indicate that 20,000 additional teachers will be needed annually for the next ten years.

The need for teachers is greatest in the following subject areas: reading (all levels), math (middle and high school), science (middle and high school), exceptional student education programs (all levels), and English for speakers of other languages (all levels). To address these critical-need areas, priority will be given to applications through the use of bonus points added to the final score of applications that demonstrate a commitment to recruiting, supporting and placing highly-qualified teachers in these areas and specializations.

Eligible agencies include all accredited or approved private and public postsecondary educational institutions in Florida, with approved teacher preparation programs and approved or provisionally approved Educator Preparation Institutes (EPIs).

Created in legislation in 2004, EPIs can be established at accredited postsecondary institutions upon approval from DOE to provide any or all of the following instruction; professional development for teachers, training for substitute teachers, paraprofessional instruction, and competency-based instruction for Bachelor Degree holders leading to temporary- and full-teacher certification. EPIs will provide an alternate route to certification for mid-career professionals and college graduates who were not education majors. To date, ten community colleges have been approved by DOE to offer Educator Preparation Institutes.

The total amount allocated to the SUCCEED Florida Teacher Certification grant is \$5 million, with amounts for individual applications suggested to range from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

