

# UTEACH ALABAMA

## Up to \$3 million over five years to strengthen STEM teacher preparation

**May 31, 2022**

The Alabama STEM Council will direct an initial \$4.5 million legislative appropriation to launch new UTeach STEM teacher preparation programs at state-supported Alabama colleges and universities.

The STEM Council is partnering with the UTeach Institute at The University of Texas at Austin and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to manage a competitive call for proposal process and provide program implementation support to selected higher education partners. Qualified institutions will be eligible to receive up to \$3 million in funding over five years to recruit and prepare secondary STEM teachers.

Alabama colleges and universities are critical partners in addressing the STEM teacher shortage. Alabama's best long-term solution for this crisis is university-based teacher preparation programs designed both for high-quality preparation and for producing the quantity of teachers needed in Alabama's K-12 schools. This is a unique opportunity for a generational shift in the impact Alabama colleges and universities can have on STEM learning and STEM workforce development.

### UTeach

UTeach is an innovative, university-based teacher preparation program model that increases the number of qualified STEM teachers in U.S. secondary schools. Developed in 1997 at The University of Texas at Austin, UTeach prepares undergraduate STEM majors to become teachers in economically and culturally diverse secondary school settings. UTeach graduates earn both a degree in their discipline and teaching certification with no added time or expense to their degree.



"The thing I am most passionate about when it comes to teaching is changing the way minorities are regarded in public education and creating equity. As a minority in a leadership position, I hope I can encourage my students to pursue careers in STEM or STEM education."

Trey Fisher, Math Teacher  
Mendez Middle School  
Austin, Texas

More information:  
[institute.uteach.utexas.edu/alabama](https://institute.uteach.utexas.edu/alabama)

## UTeach History, Reach, and Impact

- **UTeach is a well-established and proven program that has stood the test of time.** The UTeach Institute is an arm of the UTeach program dedicated solely to supporting successful program implementation at partner institutions. As a result, UTeach is currently operating at 49 colleges and universities in 23 states and the District of Columbia. This robust national networked improvement community of STEM education experts is working together to share best practices, tackle shared challenges, and continuously improve our collective approach to improving STEM teaching and learning for U.S. students.
- **UTeach produces lifelong teachers who are changing the way STEM subjects are taught.** UTeach graduates 900 new STEM teachers every year. Eighty-eight percent of them enter teaching and 87% are still teaching after four years. UTeach teachers are content experts who are uniquely prepared to engage all learners through inquiry- and project-based learning approaches to STEM. An independent evaluation conducted by the American Institutes for Research showed that students of UTeach teachers outperform their peers in math and science achievement.
- **UTeach has a national reputation for excellence.** UTeach has been recognized as a model for STEM teacher preparation reform by prominent organizations, including the National Research Council, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. UTeach was featured as a model program in a 2006 report by the National Academies, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, and in 2010 by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. UTeach is recognized as a top producer of U.S. STEM teachers by 100kin10. Working Nation featured UTeach as an initiative helping address long-standing STEM workforce issues.

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