

It is a well-known fact that there is a nation-wide teacher shortage and that Franklin County has felt the impact of that shortage in recent years. Director Stanley Bean and the Board of Education are constantly seeking ways to recruit and retain teachers. iTeach/Tennessee is one such method that has recently received the board's approval.

iTeach is a fully accredited alternative teacher certification program that offers continuous enrollment, affordable cost, and flexible payments. In addition, students receive quality asynchronous on-line instruction and test preparation materials for the required Praxis exam. A paid residency (job-embedded clinical practice) is required as part of the program. Continuous enrollment means that there is no deadline to apply. Interested persons may apply at any time and complete the program on their own timeline. There is no cost to apply. Once the application is approved, the first two courses are completed, and the content area Praxis exam is passed, then there is a \$250 enrollment fee. The remaining \$2800 is paid in monthly installments when the paid residency begins.

iTeach is primarily designed to meet the needs of career changers. People who already have a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.75 GPA and want to teach may be eligible. The program is especially beneficial for individuals with a bachelor's degree who have worked as educational assistants in the school system but is also designed for others who are looking to get into the teaching profession. Enrollment in iTeach does not guarantee placement in a job-embedded clinical practice position in the school system; however, anyone who meets the qualifications and is interested in becoming a teacher is encouraged to visit the iTeach website (<https://www.iteach.net/tennessee-alternative-teacher-certification/>) and complete the free application. For additional information, contact Jamason Fowler, iTeach District Support Manager, phone 940-268-2699 or email Jamason.fowler@iteach.net