



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Washburn U- PTP: Paraprofessionals to Teachers Program

Project Summary: Washburn University has partnered with several of the surrounding districts to offer this program to help meet the need for teachers in the Topeka (USD 501), Shawnee Heights (USD 450), Seaman (USD 345), and Auburn Washburn (USD437) public school districts. The purpose of the Paraprofessionals to Teachers program is to develop a pathway for current paraprofessionals in the local school districts to complete the requirements for certification in hard to fill disciplines and to provide financial assistance for the paraprofessionals to complete the program. Based on the current needs for certified teachers, priority will be given to paraprofessionals seeking certification in either special education or in a STEM field (identified as hard-to-fill disciplines). Other hard-to-fill disciplines will be considered as funding allows. This program is unique in that it will utilize a pre-service co-teaching model to provide mentoring and coaching for participants as they become part of a team of educators in their home classrooms. Requested funds will provide financial assistance for participants as well as training in co-teaching techniques.

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