

Elk Grove Unified School District's Teacher Education Institute (TEI) is a 12 month alternative credentialing program run by the district in partnership with San Francisco State University. TEI provides an affordable "fast track" to teaching for people who have the enthusiasm and aptitude to teach.

The goal of TEI is to provide skilled, motivated, experienced, and dedicated teachers who reflect the diversity of students and families served by public education.

## **AN INTENSIVE AND RIGOROUS PROGRAM**

TEI cohorts are trained and certified in 12 months, and their training includes intensive classroom experience. The cohorts spend an average of 900 hours in the classroom and can also substitute teach or even be hired to teach during their training.

Students take courses in the late afternoon and evenings so they can observe or student teach in the district's schools during the day.

## **MENTORING AND TUTORING BY THE BEST IN THE FIELD**

The TEI curriculum is designed and taught by outstanding Elk Grove teachers and administrators and San Francisco State University faculty. By offering a tailored curriculum, the district can design classes to meet its needs.

Examples include Literacy Development in the Elementary School, Analyzing Child Behavior in a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse School Setting, and Second Language Acquisition in School.

Experienced teachers serve as "master teachers" for each program participant. These master teachers team with program participants in the classroom for a full year, ensuring the program participants learn about classroom management and apply what they've learned in their university coursework. TEI program participants learn about the district's assessment tools, curriculum standards and student performance benchmarks.

## **THE INSTITUTE HAS GROWN RAPIDLY**

Since it began in 1994, TEI has grown rapidly from only 19 program participants in the first class to an average of about 75 graduates a year. Elk Grove Unified hires many of the graduates, as do many of the surrounding districts. Ninety-six percent of program graduates hired by Elk Grove Unified still work in the district.

More than 700 teachers have completed the TEI program since it began. It has helped the district meet many of its hiring goals — increasing the number of high-quality teachers, training more minorities to become teachers, attracting teachers for the difficult to fill classes like science and world language, and providing a greater balance of male elementary teachers and female math and science teachers.