



Transforming East Alabama Mathematics

The East Alabama Partnership for the Improvement of Mathematics Education

The TEAM-Math Teacher Leader Academy for Elementary Mathematics Specialists

TEAM-Math is proud to announce the establishment of the TEAM-Math Teacher Leader Academy for Elementary Mathematics Specialists. Through funding provided by the Noyce program of the National Science Foundation, 22 teacher leaders within high-needs school districts who have demonstrated success in improving student learning will be selected as “fellows.” These teachers will receive an annual stipend of \$10,000, as well as tuition reimbursement to complete an advanced degree in elementary education and an Elementary Mathematics Specialist Certificate. Teachers must already have completed a master’s degree in elementary or early childhood education.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. The applicant’s school must qualify as “high-needs.”¹
2. The applicant must provide evidence of being a “master teacher,” including his/her potential for leadership.
3. The applicant must hold a master’s degree in elementary or early childhood education.
4. The applicant must:
 - a. qualify for admission to (or be admitted to) the Academy-sponsored Educational Specialist Degree (or Ph.D.) program in Elementary Education at Auburn University, *or*
 - b. already hold an advanced degree beyond the master’s level in elementary education or a related field.
5. The applicant must be willing to participate in all Academy activities.

The following additional criteria will be considered in making the final selection of fellows:

6. Past participation in TEAM-Math—including serving as a teacher leader, presenter for the Summer Institute and other professional development, and/or high levels of involvement in partnership activities.
7. Interest in pursuing a degree in elementary education (with an emphasis in mathematics education) beyond the master’s level.

BENEFITS

Fellows will receive:

1. An annual stipend of \$10,000 per year for up to five years.
2. Reimbursement of tuition for Academy-sponsored courses or degree programs.
3. Academy-sponsored graduate courses designed to improve their knowledge of elementary education, mathematics education and mathematics, offered at convenient times for practicing teachers, which can apply to the completion of an advanced degree in mathematics education.
4. Ongoing professional development aimed at improving their skills as teacher leaders.

¹ According to Section 201 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021), the term “high need local educational agency” means a local educational agency that serves an elementary or secondary school located in an area in which there is:

- a high percentage of individuals from families with incomes below the poverty line;
- a high percentage of secondary school teachers not teaching in the content area in which the teachers were trained to teach; or
- a high teacher turnover rate.

REQUIREMENTS

Fellows in the TEAM-Math Teacher Leader Academy will be expected to fulfill the following requirements for continued participation:

1. Continue employment as **an elementary teacher involved in mathematics instruction** in a high-needs school district within the TEAM-Math partnership for each year that they receive an annual stipend.
2. Attend quarterly leadership workshops, which will be held in conjunction with TEAM-Math Teacher Leader meetings.
3. Complete Academy-sponsored graduate-level courses in elementary education, mathematics education and mathematics to enhance their knowledge of the field:
 - a. All fellows must show progress towards completing the requirements for the Elementary Mathematics Specialist Certificate within the five-year period. (This will require approximately eight courses or 24 credit hours.)
 - b. Fellows working towards an advanced degree as a part of the program must demonstrate continuing progress towards completion of the degree. (This will require least 10 courses or 30 credit hours beyond the master's degree, depending on the degree, some of which may overlap with the hours needed for the Elementary Mathematics Specialist Certificate.)
4. Keep a log to demonstrate their emerging leadership skills in applying their new knowledge and insights in designing and providing support for their school and district mathematics programs, and optionally in surrounding schools and districts.

APPLICATION

- I. To apply to become a fellow in the Academy, an applicant should submit the following packet:
 1. A letter of interest, indicating:
 - a. why the applicant wants to join the Academy,
 - b. what he/she hopes to gain from participation,
 - c. evidence of his/her status as a master teacher, and
 - d. relevant degrees or coursework in the field and how they have impacted his/her practice.
 He/she should also indicate his/her interest in pursuing an advanced degree from Auburn University and his/her willingness to participate in Academy activities and meet the requirements for receipt of the stipend.
 2. A letter of support from his/her principal, providing evidence that the applicant is a master teacher, based on teacher evaluations and test score data. In addition, the principal should indicate his/her judgment that the applicant will benefit from participation in the program and give his/her support for the applicant's participation in Academy activities. The principal should also provide evidence that the school meets the definition for "high needs" as set forth on the previous page.
 3. Official transcripts for undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- II. If the applicant intends to apply for a graduate program as a part of their involvement with the Academy, he or she should submit an application to the Auburn University Graduate School.
 1. See the following links for information about eligible programs in Elementary Education at Auburn University and how to apply:
 - a. Ed.S.: http://education.auburn.edu/academic_departments/ct/programs/eds-cee.html
 - b. Ph.D.: http://education.auburn.edu/academic_departments/ct/programs/phd-cee.html
 2. In particular, applicants should arrange to take the GREs (if not current) at their earliest convenience.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

1. Application packets must be received by the TEAM-Math office by October 1, 2009.
TEAM-Math, 201 Dunstan Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5272
2. Application to Academy-sponsored graduate programs must also be completed by October 1, 2009.

If you have any questions, please e-mail mail@TEAM-Math.net or call (334) 844-6881.