

**Alternative Certification  
Program for  
General Education**

**Boone County Schools  
Teacher Launchpad**

Identified Partners: Boone County Schools (BCS) and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE)

Description of the Program:

The *Boone County Schools Teacher Launchpad Program* for general education endorsements, is an alternative pathway designed to provide content experts with a unique route for earning a Professional Teaching Certificate when an area of critical need and shortage exists. BCS plans to provide a rigorous program in partnership with the WVDE in accordance with WVBE Policy 5901. The WVDE is only providing assistance as needed in the areas of proposal development, revisions, updates, and changes for the alternative certification program.

Boone County Schools will find candidates for qualifying vacancies by posting jobs on the BCS and WVDE websites and participating in job fairs across the state. The program of study will be provided by BCS in cooperation with iteach via a contractual agreement established between BCS (program provider) and coursework provider (iteach). Participants will complete at least 240 contact/seat hours of staff development including online iteach modules. Instruction will be provided using nontraditional methods including a series of online course modules, electronically delivered instruction, and job-embedded mentoring.

Through the iteach platform, candidates complete interactive modules, applied assignments, and targeted assessments that prepare them for licensure while building confidence and readiness for the first day of teaching. Required coursework includes the following: Course 5000 – Program Overview, Course 5100 – Learning Environments (Classroom Management/SEL Best Practices/Trauma Informed), Course 5200 – Learner Development (Development and Learning), Course 5300 (Curriculum), Course 5400 (Educational Computers/Technology), Course 5500 (Special Education/IDEA/School Law), and Course 5600 (Diversity). The coursework is self-paced, so there are no formal due dates. These courses are designed to cover required topics including student assessment, development and learning, curriculum, classroom management, use of educational computers and other technology, special education and diversity, and law. The proposal identifies academic and performance standards that the alternative program teacher will be following, evaluated and assessed upon, to include the WV Professional Teaching Standards.

Program participants must complete all modules, quizzes (minimum 80% grade required), assignments, and learning checks. They must also demonstrate mastery on all performance-based tasks, complete required reflections, lesson plans, and content-specific application activities. Each course must be finished in sequence before unlocking access to the next required course. Successful completion of a free online Flinn Lab Safety Course will be required for candidates who will be instructors of lab-based activities in experiential settings (science-based endorsements). BCS will reimburse the full cost of tuition for all iteach coursework, except for any courses dropped or failed. Candidates are responsible for any other expenses (textbooks, instructional materials, etc.). The current estimated cost of tuition for all iteach coursework is \$3,300, and successful completion of coursework does not result in being awarded college semester hour credit(s).

BCS will select and train members of the Professional Support Team. The Professional Support Team will conduct mentoring, observations, evaluations, and other assistance as described in W. Va. Code and WVBE Policy 5901. Program completers must meet all WVBE approved teacher certification requirements, including criteria found within the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory, to receive a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Identified Endorsements: Biology 9-AD, Chemistry 9-AD, General Mathematics through Algebra I 5-9, General Science 5-AD, Mathematics (Comprehensive) 5-AD.