



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

FHSU-PLACE Education Project (Innovative Pathways to Licensure and Competency in Elementary Education)

Project Summary: Fort Hays State University (FHSU) addresses the current critical elementary teacher shortage facing the state of Kansas through the *In PLACE Education Project (Innovative Pathways to Licensure and Competency in Elementary Education)* by adding to the number of highly qualified elementary teachers in underserved regions by *increasing the accessibility of high quality licensure pathways for place-bound teacher education students committed to teaching in these regions*. The Project targets two elementary education pathways for expansion and scale-up: the fully online pathway, and an innovative new Residency pathway that was just successfully piloted. Focus is on increasing enrollment capacity in both these pathways for place-bound teacher candidates. In addition, an *In PLACE Education* scholarship program provides added affordability and incentivizes potential place-bound teachers to earn elementary licensure in underserved areas, removing some financial barriers that teacher candidates in underserved areas often face in pursuing teacher licensure.

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