

Investing in Teachers Builds the STEM Workforce

Alabama's Investment in UTeach Teacher Preparation

OPPORTUNITY

In 2022, Alabama's state legislature committed \$14 million over five years to establish new UTeach secondary STEM teacher preparation programs at six universities, while continuing to support an existing UTeach program at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.



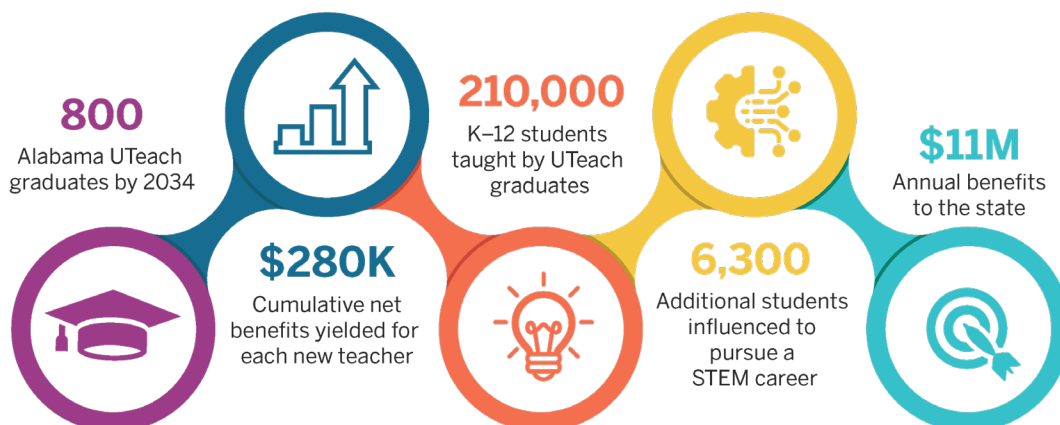
STRONG RETURN ON INVESTMENT

UTeach programs have been shown to produce well-prepared middle and high school mathematics teachers who stay in teaching longer and improve student performance in mathematics and science.

How will UTeach's success improve the STEM workforce in the whole state of Alabama?

The UTeach Institute (now the National Center for STEM Education) partnered with the Bureau of Business Research at the IC² Institute at The University of Texas at Austin to create an economic model to estimate the return on investment (ROI) of Alabama's UTeach programs over the next 10 years, 2025–2034.

The study found that by 2034, the end of the analysis period, Alabama's investment will be fully recovered, and the income from the expanded STEM workforce will contribute \$11 million in annual benefits to the state. Plus, the state will realize almost \$1 million in cost savings from reduced teacher attrition, since UTeach graduates typically remain in the classroom longer than the average teacher. The study's bottom line: **Alabama's investment in UTeach will deliver educational and economic value and a positive ROI.**

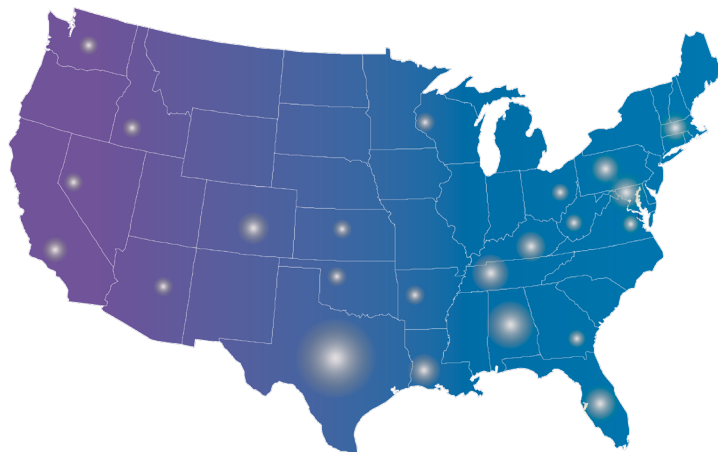


The study quantified our intuitive belief that UTeach is an effective educational program, especially when assessed over time. The cumulative ROI is quite impressive. What's exciting, too, is that the methodology we applied here can be applied elsewhere, in other academic disciplines.

— Matt Kammer-Kerwick, Director, Bureau of Business Research, IC² Institute

ABOUT UTEACH

UTeach is a nationally recognized secondary STEM teacher preparation program that launched in 1997 at The University of Texas at Austin to address the shortage of qualified STEM teachers. By recruiting STEM majors and equipping them with practical classroom experience, specially designed courses in math and science education, and mentoring by master educators, the program produces graduates who really know their STEM subject and are well-prepared to teach it.



The program's success led to the creation of the UTeach Institute, which drives expansion of the UTeach approach in other states. Almost 20 years in, the Institute has established partner 50+ programs in 22 states and the District of Columbia that have produced more than 9,500 graduates.

There's a real need for better understanding across the U.S. about how investments in educator development are connected to workforce and economic development. Making that link more concrete will provide vital information to state leaders, policy makers, even business and industry, so that investments can be smartly targeted in ways that are linked to economic development.

— Kimberly Hughes, Director, UTeach Institute

Full report: Bureau of Business Research at the IC2 Institute at The University of Texas at Austin (2026). *Modeling the Return on New Investments in Alabama's UTeach STEM Program*. <https://bit.ly/4xuTT9Z>