Purpose: This project will prepare highly qualified special education teachers trained in effective, empirically based instructional methods and provide them with opportunities to use those methods while being closely monitored in university field-based experiences within their first three years of teaching.

Method: During the first year of the project, the Department of Special Education at Peabody College will restructure its program in the area of high incidence to ensure that all graduates will have the proper coursework to be considered highly qualified in the state of Tennessee once they have successfully passed the required PRAXIS II exams. Students will be recruited for application to the program from underrepresented groups. In their training they will complete coursework, field-based experiences, and seminars focusing on current issues such as accessing the general education curriculum and empirically based methods for students with high-incidence disabilities at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Teachers will be trained to be effective mentors for the teacher candidates while they complete their field-based experiences. In addition, other teachers will be trained to mentor graduates during their first three years of teaching.

Products: