

Project ENGAGE - Abstract  
Osage County Interlocal Cooperative

Project ENGAGE (Effectively Narrowing Gaps And Growing Engagement) seeks to apply for the Education Innovation and Research Program Early-Phase cooperative agreement. This five-year initiative represents promising and innovative approaches to improve academic outcomes for high-need students (Absolute Priority 1) and to improve school climate (Absolute Priority 2). Project ENGAGE will serve approximately **1,800 K-8 students in eleven districts and seventeen sites** (2 Early Childhood Centers; 11 Elementary; 4 Middle Schools) in Northeastern Oklahoma.

Project ENGAGE activities include hiring qualified staff, behavioral and academic data collection, providing professional development training, and conducting two phases of research design (Phase 1- small-n studies on student engagement and academic achievement at Anderson and Hominy Public Schools during Year 1; Phase 2- quasi-experimental framework to measure interaction of achieving optimal fidelity level for PBIS and utilizing technology-enhanced academic instruction across multiple implementation sites). The project seeks to meet the following objectives: decrease use of exclusionary discipline practices, increase teacher knowledge of positive behavioral strategies and intentional technology, and increase both academic achievement and student engagement. Project ENGAGE hypothesizes that efforts to increase student engagement via intentional technology will lead to decreases in student discipline disproportionality and increases in student academic achievement in rural schools.

Several partnerships will occur within this project. In addition to participating OCIC-member LEAs, LEAs from outside OCIC will serve as a control group for the quasi-experimental study. OCIC's federal School Climate Transformation Grant, Oklahoma State University, and the Oklahoma State Department of Education will provide In-Kind services.