

West River Foundation

U310A180043

State Served: SD

West River Foundation, as the fiscal agent, is submitting the South Dakota Statewide Family Engagement Center proposal in response to the US Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement Statewide Family Engagement Center call for proposals. Partnering in the project are the South Dakota Department of Education, Black Hills Special Services (support for all goals, objectives, and activities); and the South Dakota Parent Connection.

If funded, this effort will create systemic and effective family engagement policies, programs, and activities that lead to improvements in student development and academic achievement, with an emphasis on economically disadvantaged, ELL, and minority students. The grant will focus on cradle-to-career supports for students, parents, families, and community-based organizations. The South Dakota Statewide Family Engagement Center proposal addresses Competitive Priority 1B (provide families with evidence-based strategies for promoting literacy) and Competitive Priority 2 (provide families with the information and tools they need to make important decisions regarding the educational choice that is most appropriate for their children).

Goal 1: To facilitate collaboration efforts among all stakeholders to develop education policy and systemic initiatives that provide a continuum of services to remove barriers for family engagement in education and school reform efforts.
Objectives/Outcomes: Develop and disseminate resources that promote effective and meaningful involvement of parents; coordinate efforts and leverage resources to increase parent involvement and raise student achievement, with emphasis on economically disadvantaged learners, ELL, minorities, students with disabilities, homeless children and youth, children and youth in foster care, and migrant students.

Goal 2: To provide technical assistance, training, and support to South Dakota's SEA, LEAs, Title I Schools, Schools in Improvement, and community-based organizations in the areas of parent, family, and community engagement.
Objectives/Outcomes: Provide support and guidance to SDDOE; provide training to 400 Birth to 5 service providers to build capacity in providing families with evidence-based literacy strategies; provide technical assistance and support to CSI and TSI schools, as requested; develop and deliver training in LEAs, Title 1, and Schools in Improvement schools that builds capacity to develop and implement effective policies and strategies for family, parent, and community involvement; and conduct trainings for community-based organizations to support families and prepare students as they transition out of the K-12 environment into post-secondary education, training, and/or apprenticeships.

Goal 3: To provide training, resources, and support to parents (with a special emphasis on parents of disadvantaged students) so that they effectively advocate for and participate in their child's academic growth and success.
Objectives/Outcomes: Develop, acquire, and disseminate informational resources which provide relevant, concise, and easily understood information related to student achievement, school accountability, parental options and opportunities to 20,000 parents; deliver information/training workshops to 800 parents that build their knowledge and capacity to share responsibility for student achievement; increase the capacity of 150 parents to assume leadership roles in the development of parent involvement policies.

Goal 4: To inform the development of consistent communication and marketing tools among all stakeholders.
Objectives/Outcomes: Develop a statewide advisory committee as a vehicle to increase communication and coordination in family, parent, and community involvement; and develop, acquire, and disseminate 3000 web-based, social media, print, or marketing resources that increase knowledge of family, parent, and community engagement.