

***Improving Educational Outcomes in High Need, Low-Income Rural and Urban
Communities through a High School Mentoring Model***
**Education Innovation and Research Program – Early-phase
Grant Abstract**

The Center for Supportive Schools (CSS) is applying for an Early-phase Grant in response to *API: Demonstrates a Rationale* and *AP 2: Field-Initiated Innovations - General*. The proposed 5-year project will develop, implement, and scale **Achievement Mentoring (AM)**, a structured, school-based, one-to-one mentoring intervention for 10th and 11th graders identified as high-risk for dropping out of school. The project will investigate the efficacy of AM and equip CSS to provide schools across the country with tested resources to implement the program. AM is designed to improve social and emotional learning (SEL), educational mindsets, student engagement, and academic and other school-related outcomes. AM is a one-to-one, high school adaptation of the Behavior Monitoring & Reinforcement Program (BMRP), an evidence-based group mentoring model for middle schools. The project will serve high-need 10th and 11th graders in up to 20 high schools in low-income, rural communities in North Carolina and urban communities in New York, among others. CSS and The Policy & Research Group (PRG) will partner to conduct an experimental study to measure program impacts on SEL (goal setting, help seeking), educational mindsets (academic motivation, valuing education, perceptions of teacher support), and student engagement. PRG will examine the extent to which these impacts translate into improved progression in school (number of courses passed, a critical indicator of being off-track for on-time high school graduation) and increased staying in school (school attendance). In each of up to 20 schools, we will train an average of 10 adult mentors and 40 students will be identified to enroll in the RCT. Of these 40 students, 20 will be randomly assigned to participate in AM and 20 will be randomly assigned to a control group, resulting in a total sample of approximately 800 students.