

Iredell-Statesville Schools (NC) will implement **RIPPLE**: Reducing disparities and Implementing strategies to Promote Proactive Learning Environments which is an **Early-Phase** EIR project addressing Absolute Priority 1-Demonstrates a Rationale and Absolute Priority 2: Field-Initiated Innovations-General.

**High-Need Students:** *RIPPLE* will serve 10,729 high-need students in grades K-12 attending 21 of our district's highest-poverty schools in which 62% of students are economically disadvantaged. Students in these schools have persistently lower rates of academic achievement than either district or state averages and exhibit higher rates of aggressive and violent behaviors exceeding both district and NC state averages.

**Description and Outcomes:** *RIPPLE* will implement: 1) a trauma-informed systems approach paired with a 2) trauma-specific interventional treatment approach embedded in our district's existing multi-tiered system of supports framework to positively impact student academic and behavioral outcomes. Layering trauma-informed approaches within our existing MTSS framework will allow staff to better understand the wide range of behavioral and academic warning signs that students exposed to trauma may display while integration of system-wide resources, strategies, structures, and practices will provide a comprehensive and responsive framework to systematically address the negative impacts and barriers that trauma and toxic stress present to student achievement. We theorize that layering socio-emotional and academic supports in combination with trauma-informed interventions, will produce a greater impact than either a trauma informed care approach or MTSS framework would have individually. Outcomes will include: reduced discipline referrals and increased school climate and student academic achievement.

**Partners:** Our generous partners include Children's Hope Alliance, Easterseals, Goodwill Industries of NW NC/Crosby Scholars, and Boys and Girls Club of the Piedmont.