

Title: Project YEES (Youth Educational and Emotional Supports)
Type of Grant: Development (Early-Phase)
Absolute Priorities: Absolute Priorities #1 and #2
Students to Be Served: 4,000 in grades 3-8

Project YEES is designed to improve student outcomes through reducing/eliminating disparities in school disciplinary practices for minority students and students with disabilities, as well as reducing the use of exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions, expulsions, and unnecessary placements in alternative education programs, by identifying the root causes of behavioral problems and addressing those problems through Behavioral Response to Intervention, Restorative Practices and Social Emotional Learning. YEES is designed as a multi-tiered program to reach high-needs students at a variety of stages, including school-wide interventions (Tier 1), therapeutic mental health services and substance abuse counseling services (Tiers 2 & 3), Saturday School (Tier 3), and Parent University. Students are identified through the U-360 screening tool, office referrals/discipline, academic failure, and excessive absences. High-needs students will be referred to the 10-week Pull Out Student Support (POSS) program, where they will receive individualized intervention and instruction designed to support their academic and social/emotional needs. The evidence-based Check-In/Check-Out system will be used daily and students will receive an average of 90-120 minutes per week of additional academic support in small group or one-on-one instruction. After the successful completion of the POSS program, students will continue to report via Check-in/Check-out on a weekly basis throughout the remainder of the school year. YEES has four goals with 16 supporting outcomes. Goal #1: Build the capacity of 4 high-needs elementary and middle schools in PUSD to implement Project YEES. Goal #2: Improve student outcomes (academic, behavior, and pro-social). Goal #3: Improve school-level outcomes (academic, behavior, and pro-social). Goal #4: Improve teacher attitudes and perception of student misbehavior and working conditions.