

ABSTRACT

Project Title: Scaling Teachers' Professional Development for ASSISTments

Type of Grant Requested: Mid-phase

Absolute Priorities: 1 and 3

The total number of students to be served in the project: Approximately 24,000 students will be served across 80 schools. Each school will have approximately 3 math teachers (7th and 8th grade) each with approximately 100 students each.

Grade level(s) to be served by the project: 7th, and 8th Grade

Definition of high-need student: This project defines high-needs as low math achievement scores (below the median in their state), rural, and a high proportion of free and reduced prices lunch (over 50%).

Project description including project activities: This project will increase student learning by providing teachers with a homework tool, ASSISTments, that has been shown to improve student learning. While ASSISTments has been successful, support for scaling the project is needed. This project will make teacher adoption even easier, by 1) conducting iterative improvement of the user experience, 2) creating training materials to be used in the Virtual-PLC, and 3) the addition to the system of instructional recommendations.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes:

- Objective 1. Create and test strategies for improving teacher adoption and implementation.
- Objective 2. Implement ASSISTments with the recruited treatment study teachers
- Objective 3. Rigorously evaluate the impact of ASSISTments for homework
- Objective 4. Disseminate Findings and support the infrastructure

The special project features: This project features a unique tool to support teachers. At this time, there is no existing program focused on connecting instructional ideas to classroom level data. Nor is there a professional learning program that combines using data gathering tools and combining what it offers with targeted math instruction that focuses on content.

All organizations partnering with this project: WPI, ASSISTments Foundation, WestEd, Lesley University, and the schools.