

Integrating Curriculum Development and Professional Development for Kindergarten Readiness

Abstract

Type of Grant Request & Absolute Priorities: Early-phase; (AP.1) Demonstrates a rationale; (AP.2) Field-initiated innovations – General

Project Description: In the proposed 5 year project, Children’s Literacy Initiative (CLI) will partner with Elizabeth Public Schools (EPS) and Newark Public Schools (NPS), each district with approximately 4 out of 5 children receiving Free-or-Reduced Lunch, to accomplish three goals: (1) create a comprehensive, field-tested, high-quality Pre-K curriculum (English and Spanish) and suite of implementation supports that will be free and publically available; (2) achieve high fidelity implementation in 20 centers impacting approximately 1,200 4 year-old students and resulting in statistically significant improvements in student learning; (3) build capacity of district/center leaders to sustain work following grant period. To accomplish these goals, CLI will: use Pre-K content experts to draft a research-based standards-aligned curriculum in English and Spanish; conduct at least 20 pilot-tests to receive field-based input on the curriculum and implementation support services and resources to inform improvements; finalize, produce, and distribute the curriculum to implementation sites and make it free and publically available on CLI’s website; implement the curriculum with a range of implementation support services including trainings for teachers, parents, and site directors, on-site embedded coaching and virtual coaching for teachers and center directors, a suite of video and other web-based resources for teachers, parents, and center directors; and engage in formative evaluation to inform development and summative evaluation to assess implementation fidelity, student outcomes, and sustainability.

Partners: Independent evaluator, Research for Action; Elizabeth Public Schools; Newark Public Schools.