

The Research Foundation-SUNY,
PR#U215J190083

Project Title: Binghamton University Community Schools PLACE (**P**artnerships for **L**earning **A**nd **C**ommunity **E**ngagement) Initiative

Target Population: The consortium (the eligible entity) will provide services to 653 students enrolled in Deposit (eligible under SRSA and RLIS; PK-Grade 5) and Whitney Point Central School Districts' elementary schools (both Title 1 schools; Grade PK-3) and their families. Additionally, family engagement and early childhood development services will be targeted to an additional 25 children in Deposit and 50 children in Whitney Point (a total of 728 children served). With limited resources, transportation options, and support services, these two rural school districts are tackling complex student needs interconnected across school, family, and community systems. In response, the current initiative targets these barriers and other challenges to learning such as intergenerational poverty, mental health needs, and addiction.

Brief Summary of the Comprehensive Plan: The consortium proposes to plan/expand, implement, and operate university-assisted full-service community schools (UA-FSCS) in two high-poverty rural elementary schools in Broome County, NY. The UA-FSCS is unique in its approach, as it mobilizes the resources of higher education to support schools, families, and communities. In the current initiative, two rural schools will use high-quality, evidence-based strategies to address the needs of their target population. Additionally, our plan addresses teacher and social worker shortages in rural communities by implementing a grow your own teacher/social worker program at Binghamton University focused on rural schools.

Project Goals: The goals are: (1) develop UA-FSCS in two high-poverty, rural school districts; (2) implement evidence-based activities, strategies, and/or interventions; (3) enhance the learning support system within each school; (4) recruit and retain effective teachers and other professionals for practice in rural schools; and (5) disseminate key findings, lessons learned, and success stories to promote policy change, sustainability, scale-up, and replication.

Expected Outcomes: The outcomes will increase the number and percentage of students who are: (1) ready to enter school; (2) attend school regularly; and (3) actively involved in their learning and community. An increase in the number and percentage of families who are involved in their children's education and schools is also anticipated as well as the number and percentage of strategies identified schools use to engage with families and communities.

Brief Project Description: We will provide and coordinate pipeline services that will include: (1) family engagement; (2) extended learning opportunities/youth development; (3) access to health, mental health, and social services; (4) social-emotional learning; (5) early childhood development; (6) professional development; and (7) linkages between schools and partners.

Key Partners: Partners in this project include consortium members Binghamton University Community Schools; Deposit Central School District; Whitney Point Central School District; Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Education; Broome County Mental Health; Binghamton University's Center for Civic Engagement; along with current and new family and community partners.