

ABSTRACT NARRATIVE

Vermont proposes to expand its remote education infrastructure to redress long-standing disparities in access and opportunity for its most vulnerable learners (Absolute Priority 3). Framed within Governor Scott's vision for a Cradle to Career Education System preparing all learners for postsecondary success, the project has three overarching goals:

- 1) Students are ready to learn,
- 2) Students have equitable access to state-of-the-art learning opportunities, and
- 3) Students benefit from sustained, high-quality instruction.

The project will (1) identify gaps, map resources, and develop a virtual network of service providers and supports to ensure all students are emotionally and physically ready for learning; (2) create accessible, remote-ready, STEM learning opportunities aligned with state-identified growth sectors; and (3) expand recent state investments to scale best practices for remote instruction and improve collective online instructional expertise.

Key project objectives include: (1) Conduct comprehensive needs assessment to ascertain gaps in student support service provision; identify, pilot and scale support structural solutions to address gaps; and refine and scale up best professional practice statewide. (2) Develop mobile STEM units, distribution and maintenance plans; develop modular, coordinated curriculum for online/hybrid delivery of Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathways; and bring to scale state-wide. (3) Ensure enough educators are sufficiently trained in online and hybrid instructional methods and leverage investment in Edmodo to disseminate best practice regarding online and hybrid instructional practice.

Fund will be used to contract for services regarding needs assessment, mobile lab design, construction and maintenance, curriculum development, training in online instructional methods, and project evaluation. Funds will also support a team of Agency project coordinators who will implement the work.

Partners in this work include LEAs, including district leadership and educators; support service providers, including both school and community-based supports; VT Department of Mental Health; Vermont Principals Association; Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators; Vermont Department of Libraries; regional CTE centers; parents; students; and education stakeholders throughout the state.