

## ***Project Abstract***

The overarching goal of Florida's *Launching a Florida Education Innovation Incubator with Field-Initiated Models Through a Research Practice Partnership* project is to rethink some of our K-12 education models in Florida, with an innovative focus on researching, designing and replicating those options that are deemed to be effective in closing achievement gaps through practices that ensure high-quality teaching and learning. The Florida Department of Education will have two key partners in this work, the University of South Florida and the Florida Virtual School, both of which have strong records of success.

In considering the achievements that Florida has made over the past two decades in education and the strategic investments in building out virtual learning options for students, Florida's proposal addresses **Absolute Priority 3**.

There are **three main activities** as part of Florida's ESF-REM grant proposal: 1) Identify, study and scale new innovative disruptive technologies in education to ensure more equitable implementation of state-of-the-art approaches; 2) Develop a non-college credit credential online professional development program to help Florida educators enhance their skills; and 3) Create a personalized learning engine within the Florida Virtual School to individualize content for each student's learning needs.

As Florida looks at models to include in the incubator, it will place an emphasis on schools that:

- Serve high percentages of low-income families;
- Represent both rural and urban communities;
- Are operated directly by a local school district; or
- Are operated by a charter school operator; or

- Are operated by a private school, where 50% or more of their students are state scholarship recipients.

Florida has been a global leader in deploying virtual learning options to students for over two decades, with a focus on supporting educators in utilizing on-line learning platforms to deliver valuable instruction. While Florida's focus on the continuity of instruction has been central in its mission to mitigate learning loss, there is concern that distance learning options currently in use do not replicate the value and impact of an in-person learning experience with a great teacher. It is this premise that has informed Florida's plan and strategy for submitting this application for funding to the United States Department of Education