Abstract

Project Title: Refining and Expanding the Effective Use of 4S: An Evidence-Based Program to Increase Adolescents’ Ability to Self-Manage their School Success

Type of Grant Requested: Mid-phase

Absolute Priorities: 1 (Moderate Evidence) and 3 (Skills for Productive Citizens)

Total number of students to be served in the project: Approximately 8000.

Grade level(s) to be served by the project: Grade 8

Your definition of high-need students: Students whose families qualify for free/reduced price lunch and/or attend schools with high concentrations of low-income students.

Brief project description including project activities: The project will transform an existing, evidence-based, multi-year middle grades advisory curriculum into high impact 8th grade quarter long Skills for Secondary School Success. It will then validate the course’s impact on 8th grade social and emotional (SEL) skills and academic outcomes through a 10 school, 1000 student study (externally conducted RCT at the student level). The project will then address a challenge to widespread use by developing alternative PD delivery modes that are more cost effective and test these in a second RCT (60 schools randomly assigned to different PD types).

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: The project expects to improve 8th graders’ SEL skills and academic outcomes, leaving them better prepared to navigate the transition to 9th grade. It aims to also address several barriers to scale. Outcomes include rigorous evidence about the effectiveness of the intervention in improving SEL and academic outcomes and a more scalable intervention that will be used in more schools nationwide.

List all organizations partnering with this project: Johns Hopkins University, Talent Development Secondary, and SRI International.