

Early Phase Competition -- Absolute Priority 4 (SEL)
University of Pittsburgh
S411C210036

School Just Discipline Project (JDP): Reducing Racial Disparities and Promoting Positive School Climate

Project Title: School Just Discipline Project (JDP): Reducing Racial Disparities and Promoting Positive School Climate

Type of Grant Requested: Early-phase

Priorities (Absolute and Competitive) the Project Addresses: Absolute Priorities **1** (Applications that Demonstrate a Rationale) and **4** (Field-Initiated Innovations-- Fostering Knowledge and Promoting the Development of Skills That Prepare Students to Be Informed, Thoughtful, and Productive Individuals and Citizens) with Competitive Preference Priorities **2** (Innovative Approaches to Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Underserved Students and Educators) and **3** (Promoting Equity and Adequacy in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities).

Total number of students to be served in the project: Approximately 3,200 students

Grade levels to be served by the project: 6th, 7th, and 8th graders

Your definition of high-need students: Students of color (e.g., Black and Latinx) and economically disadvantaged students who have been historically under-served and been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

Brief project description including project activities: The project will implement, evaluate, and refine the Just Discipline Project (JDP) model, a school-wide restorative practice program designed to improve students' academic achievement by reducing racial disparities in school disciplinary practices, fostering socioemotional competencies, and creating a fair, inclusive school climate. JDP's innovative approach situates restorative practices in socioemotional learning and relational climate frameworks with an explicit focus on addressing issues of equity, culture, and bias in the school community.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: By strengthening interpersonal relationships, emphasizing socioemotional and cultural competencies, and using restorative practices instead of punitive measures, Just Discipline Project (JDP) aims to (a) create a more positive, equitable school climate for students and school staff, (b) reduce exclusionary disciplinary practices and racial disparities in the use of these practices, and (c) establish the efficacy of restorative practices in fostering equity and inclusion in schools.

Any special project features: The innovative JDP model features three restorative practice implementation components essential to program success: (a) on-site, designated restorative practice program implementation experts, (b) the explicit cultivation of student leaders as transformative agents in the implementation process, and (c) engaging students and school-based adults in socioemotional learning.

List all organizations partnering with this project: University of Pittsburgh, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and American Institute of Research