

PR Award #: S422B220004

Organization Name: Ball State University

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Title: Civic Renewal through Education for Agency, Tolerance, and Engagement (CREATE)

Priorities Addressed: Absolute Priorities (a) & (b); Competitive Preference Priorities (a) & (b); and Invitational Priorities 1 & 2.

Project Goals: Consistent with the purposes of the AHC-National Activities grant and the GPRA measure, CREATE's primary goal is to increase the understanding of civics, American history, government, and geography among students and teachers. This primary goal is supported by eleven activity objectives detailed in the proposal.

Expected Outcomes: Increased number of students exceeding standards in civics, American history, geography, and media literacy; students engage in more civic related classroom-based discussions and hands-on field-based experiences; increased student understanding and engagement in civics, American history, geography, and media literacy; teachers have new and more engaging civic engagement activities and engaging instructional lessons; student awareness of career options in public service.

Project Description: CREATE is an innovative approach to instruction, student learning and professional development in civics, that integrates American history, geography, government, and media literacy. The projected project period is between 1-1-22 and 12-31-24. Our central project focus is civics, one that includes innovative strategies for history, geography, government, and media literacy. CREATE's approach is building on recent work in civics education, adapting and building on these models, and researching the outcomes of the project to produce a replicable/scalable model for civics education. This model will include ongoing teacher professional development (PD) to support innovative instruction and learning strategies that improve student success in American history, civics, government, and geography. We also designed CREATE to align with Subpart-3, American History and Civics Education of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Public Law 114-95.

Project Participants: Our participants will be K-12 administrators, teachers, and students (with a primary focus on grades 4-12) with an emphasis on low-income, marginalized, and underrepresented students and those who work with them. CREATE will impact roughly 5,215 students and 335 teachers. MCS is a high need district, with 28.9% of families reporting incomes below the poverty level and 42.9% of families eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (IES/NCES Data). MCS minority enrollment is 40% of the student body (majority Black), more than the Indiana public school average of 32% (Public School Review). We selected MCS as the target population to engage underserved populations with a scalable model for civic renewal and exposure to opportunities for public service.

Key Partner Organizations: Muncie Community Schools