PR Award #: S423A220084
The University of Texas at Arlington
701 S. Nedderman Dr.
Box 19145
Arlington, TX 76019

Program Contact Information:
Amanda Olsen,
817.272.5641,
Amanda.olsen@uta.edu

Absolute Priority: 1
Competitive Preference Priorities: 2 and 3.

Project Title: Increasing Teachers’ Capacity for Integrating Mathematics, Social-Emotional Learning, and Equity (Math+SEL+E)

Project Description: The Math+SEL+E project addresses three pressing national needs: (1) reducing inequities in student mathematics achievement, (2) increasing students’ social and emotional competencies, and (3) building equity practices in schools. It addresses these needs in the context of middle grades (6-8) mathematics, which is a gateway subject critical to students’ preparation for higher level mathematics, later enrollment in (STEM) coursework, and interest in STEM careers. However, despite the importance of high-quality mathematics instruction for middle grades, teachers often lack subject-specific expertise in mathematics. Our goal is to increase the number of middle grades mathematics teachers who have the capacity and confidence to lead social-emotional learning (SEL), equity, and mathematics integration. Math+SEL+E will provide participating teachers with (a) professional development that integrates best practices in technology-based mathematics, SEL, and equity; (b) a professional learning community focused on the integration; (c) a Master of Education degree from University of Texas at Austin; (d) Texas Instruments (TI) technology for use in their classrooms accompanied by; (e) Teachers Teaching with Technology (T3TM) professional development and coaching, which provides teachers with hands-on, interactive experience to integrate TI technology into their lessons. During the three-year funding period, Math+SEL+E will directly involve 300 middle grades teachers and approximately 39,596 middle grades students in both the Dallas Independent School District and the Mansfield Independent School District in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Project Expected Outcomes: A randomized controlled trial designed to meet What Works Clearinghouse standards without reservations, and an external evaluation study will produce important results about the effectiveness of Math+SEL+E, particularly related to: 1) teacher mathematics, SEL, and equity knowledge informed by the professional development, 2) mathematics content and pedagogical knowledge from completing the M.Ed. degree from UTA, and 3) technology knowledge from the integration of TI technology and T3TM coaching. It is expected that these three components will also increase student SEL and equitable behaviors in the classroom, in addition to academic achievement and interest in advanced level mathematics.

Project Partners: University of Missouri – Columbia, Ohio University, Dallas Independent School District, Mansfield Independent School District, TI, and Educational Program Research & Evaluation