

PR Award #: S336S220018

Organization Name: University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Address: Office of Research and Engagement, Venture Way Center, 100 Venture Way, Suite 201, Hadley, MA 01035

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Absolute Priority: 1

Competitive Preference Priorities: 2

Invitational Priority (GYO): N

Requested Total Award Amount: \$2,414,341.81

Project Description:

The goal of the project is that Massachusetts school districts and paraprofessionals will have a tested, accessible, and sustainable model for becoming highly qualified ECE teachers, ready for scaling and continuity across Massachusetts. The outcome of the project will be 35 paraprofessionals licensed as highly qualified new ECE teachers, demonstrating comprehensive knowledge and skills in early grade literacy practices, inclusive and anti-racist teaching pedagogy, use of research, and classroom assessment, through a fully online set of courses and an immersive clinical year of experience. The partnership implementing this project includes the UMass Amherst College of Education and the University Without Walls/Interdisciplinary Studies online program; the Springfield Massachusetts school district (Boland, Rebecca M. Johnson, Milton Bradley, Sumner Avenue, Brightwood schools); the Holyoke Massachusetts school district (McMahon, Donahue schools); and Paradigm Shift, a non-profit organization specializing in diversifying the teaching profession, teacher test support, and school culture change. In Year 1 (planning year), we will enhance the existing ECE program to create the PtT hybrid pathway program. Simultaneously, the partner school districts will recruit and select the first 20 paraprofessionals of color (Cohort 1) to start their coursework in Year 2. In Year 3, Cohort 2 with an additional 20 paraprofessionals will start their coursework. We anticipate that at least 8 PtTs will move to their clinical year in Year 3, while the remainder continue with their coursework. During Year 4 and 5, 22 program completers will participate in the induction programs, while the remaining 13 complete their clinical year.

Project Expected Outcomes:

The outcome of the project will be 35 paraprofessionals licensed as highly qualified new ECE teachers, demonstrating comprehensive knowledge and skills in early grade literacy practices, inclusive and anti-racist teaching pedagogy, use of research, and classroom assessment, through a fully online set of courses and an immersive clinical year of experience.

Project Partners:

The partnership implementing this project includes the UMass Amherst College of Education and the University Without Walls/Interdisciplinary Studies online program; the Springfield Massachusetts school district (Boland, Rebecca M. Johnson, Milton Bradley, Sumner Avenue, Brightwood schools); the Holyoke Massachusetts school district (McMahon, Donahue schools); and Paradigm Shift, a non-profit organization specializing in diversifying the teaching profession, teacher test support, and school culture change.