

## **Cumberland County Schools, North Carolina (Planning) Fostering Diverse Schools**

The problem in Cumberland County Schools (CCS) is that its students experience academic and disciplinary disparities in treatment, access to resources, and opportunities and outcomes due to their socioeconomic status, where they live, and whether they are Black or have a disability. Utilizing a systems-level approach, CCS will address this by designing, planning, and evaluating a micro-cycle pilot of a targeted equity-based multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) that is uniquely designed for the schools in the three most economically disadvantaged attendance areas in CCS. Using the results from the micro-cycle pilot in the three attendance areas to design and plan a district-wide Equity Framework focused on equity-based MTSS, restorative practices, targeted professional development, and community engagement. The proposed planning project will consult a broad range of community stakeholders in the development of a comprehensive plan to reimagine how student transportation can support equitable access to well-rounded educational opportunities for all students. The plan will primarily focus on increasing socioeconomic diversity for students attending schools with high levels of economically disadvantaged students. The project will also develop a plan to adequately prepare teachers to effectively educate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds who face multiple obstacles to success.