

Indiana Resource Center for Families with Special Needs, Inc (IN) \$986,024 The expected outcome of this project is to demonstrate improved academic performance by students of early learning, elementary, and secondary age in targeted, underserved communities in Indiana through a systemic approach to family engagement. This project plans to promote family engagement through three distinct but interrelated efforts at the systems level. The first establishes five model sites where exemplary policies and practices will be developed through the provision of research-based support and state-level guidance. Secondly, resources for families will be organized into a statewide asset map to include educational options, health and wellness agencies, adult education training opportunities, related businesses, and other local social service programs to support family engagement. The third commitment is to sustain the investment of this project by promoting the successes and scaling up to more sites through LEA cross-state collaboration and the sharing of materials and videos on the center's website. The 2021 Academic Impact Report, which illustrates the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on students across Indiana, will be used to identify districts where there is a higher concentration of students not meeting grade level standards. In year one, an Advisory Committee of parents, statewide agencies, and community partners will support a consensus process to agree upon a consistent measure of family engagement. One LEA in each of the existing five service regions (North, East, South, West, and Central) will be identified as a partner site for 1) representation on the Advisory Committee, 2) intense implementation of transformative activities related to family engagement, 3) collection of data to analyze the impact of the activities, and 4) service as a model site when successful efforts are scaled up. Under expert facilitation, training tools and processes will be selected by Regional Stakeholder Groups from each LEA based on regional need and research standards. The activities in years two through five will focus on attaining and sustaining capacity outcomes as identified in the Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships.