

## Mid-Phase Competition Absolute Priority 5 (Educator Recruitment and Retention)

Region 18 Education Service Center

S411B230029

### Middle School Collaborative Language Acquisition Strategies for Success (MS CLASS)

**Applicant Name:** Region 18 – Texas Center for Educator Excellence (TxCEE)

**Project Title:** Middle School Collaborative Language Acquisition Strategies for Success (MS CLASS)

**Type of Grant Requested:** (select one)  Early-Phase  Mid-Phase  Expansion

**Absolute Priorities the Project Addresses:** (select all that apply)

Absolute Priority 1-- Demonstrate a Rationale (Early), Moderate (Mid), Strong (Expansion)

Absolute Priority 2-- Field-Initiated Innovations—General

Absolute Priority 3-- Promoting STEM Education

Absolute Priority 4-- Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs

Absolute Priority 5-- Educator Recruitment and Retention

**Competitive Preference Priorities the Project Addresses:** (select all that apply)

Competitive Preference Priority 1— Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities: Implementers and Partners

Competitive Preference Priority 2—Supporting a Diverse Educator Workforce and Professional Growth to Strengthen Student Learning\* (FOR EARLY-PHASE AP5 APPLICANTS ONLY)

**Total number of students to be served by the project:** 15,000+

**Grade level(s) to be served by the project:** 6-8

**Definition of high-need students:** Students who are Emergent Bilinguals (EBs)

**Brief description of project activities:** MS CLASS reflects insights gained from ESC 18—TxCEE's implementation of collaborative learning communities (CLCs), beginning teacher mentoring, and student growth measures. CLCs build upon promising professional learning (PL) across three tiers of support to implement evidence-based instruction for EBs.

**Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes:** Refine evidence-based PL strategies to support EBs; increase teacher knowledge of effective EB strategies; improve linguistic and academic outcomes for EBs; and conduct a rigorous evaluation and disseminate findings to stakeholders.

**Summary of how the project is innovative:** CLCs allow teachers to collaboratively test, reflect, and refine innovative hands-on experiential approaches to student learning that address identified inequities. Teachers are the key lever this project will draw upon to affect improvements in teaching and learning among participating districts, schools, teachers, and students.

**Other studies related to the proposed project:** EB instruction (Baker et al., 2014); Mentoring (Young et al., 2017); CLCs (Fullan & Hargreaves, 2016)

**Proposed implementation sites:** Vanguard Academies, La Villa ISD, Lockhart ISD, Legacy Preparatory Academies, Longview ISD, South San Antonio ISD, and Southwest Public Schools

**Organizations partnering with this project:** American Institutes for Research, University of Texas