

Education Innovation and Research Program (EIR) Project Abstract

Applicant Name: Lake County Regional Office of Education

Project Title: Interconnected Systems Framework: School Health and Interventions for Nurturing Excellence (ISF-SHINE)

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

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

- Competitive Preference Priority 1— Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources
- Competitive Preference Priority 2— Addressing the Impact of COVID–19 on Students, Educators

Total number of students to be served by the project: 34,688

Grade level(s) to be served by the project: Kindergarten to 5th Grades

Definition of high-need students: Students experiencing mental health challenges, including students from diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds, low-income households, and students with disabilities.

Brief description of project activities: We will (a) refine the Interconnected System Framework (ISF) professional learning (PL), including creating a new web-based PL platform; (b) conduct an RCT with 80 elementary schools and (c) broadly disseminate evaluation results and PL to increase ISF scaling.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: We will (1) refine ISF PL; (2) improve student well-being, behavior, and achievement; and (3) develop mechanisms for sustainability. We expect (1) that all students in ISF schools demonstrate improved (a) well-being, (b) achievement, and (d) decreased discipline; (2) that high-need students receive mental health services; and (3) school staff report positive perceptions of school climate, job satisfaction, self-efficacy, and low burn out.

Summary of how the project is innovative: The ISF is the systems-change framework for integrating multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS), and school-based mental health in schools. We will make the ISF PL model more efficient and replicable.

Other studies related to the proposed project: IES R324A210179: Improving Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Academic Functioning of Elementary School Children Through the ISF; NIJ-2015-4163: Interconnecting PBIS and School Mental Health to Improve School Safety: A Randomized Trial

Proposed implementation sites: 80 of the 117 elementary schools in 37 districts in Lake County, IL

Organizations partnering with this project: Midwest PBIS, Katabasis, University of Illinois-Chicago, and WestEd.