

**Education Innovation and Research Program (EIR)  
Project Abstract**

**Applicant Name:** Arizona Educational Foundation

**Project Title:** Pathways to Evidence-Based Literacy: Embedding SRSD in Schools with AI-powered Support

**Type of Grant Requested:**  Expansion

**Absolute Priorities the Project Addresses:**

Absolute Priority 1 – Field-Initiated Innovations: Promoting Evidence-Based Literacy

**Competitive Preference Priorities the Project Addresses:**

Competitive Preference Priority 1 – Returning Education to the States

**Total number of students to be served by the project:** Approximately 16,000

**Grade level(s):** Grades K–5 (elementary)

**High-need students:** Title I, free/reduced-price lunch, English learners, students with disabilities, and rural students

**Brief description of project activities:** The project will expand the use of Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD), an evidence-based practice for teaching writing, by creating and testing an innovative AI-supported professional development (PD) course for instructional coaches. The proposed course will help them create effective systems for integrating SRSD with their local curricula - a barrier to sustainability.

**Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes:** Research questions include: (1) Does AI-supported PD for coaches improve fidelity, sustainability, and integration of SRSD compared to traditional PD? (2) Do students in AI-supported schools demonstrate greater writing achievement gains than those in SRSD-only and control schools? (3) What contextual factors enable or hinder effective integration of SRSD with AI supports? Expected outcomes include evidence of integration, stronger writing achievement gains for students in content areas, and new evidence on AI's role in supporting sustainable adoption of evidence-based literacy practices.

**Summary of how the project is innovative:** This project extends decades of SRSD research by tackling a key scale-up challenge: embedding evidence-based instruction within real-world school contexts. The AI-powered PD course introduces new tools and strategies to help coaches reduce implementation barriers and strengthen sustainability.

**Other studies related to the proposed project:** The project builds on prior large-scale randomized controlled trials of SRSD (e.g., [REDACTED]\*) and growing evidence for practice-based PD (Collins et al., 2021\*\*).

**Proposed implementation sites:** Arizona elementary schools across urban, suburban, and rural settings (majority rural)

**Organizations partnering with this project:**

- Arizona Educational Foundation (Applicant/Prime) – fiscal management, recruitment, convenings, dissemination.
- SRSD Online (Subrecipient) – course development, training delivery, fidelity monitoring, implementation support dissemination.
- American Institutes for Research (Subrecipient) – independent evaluation design, data collection, and analyses.

[REDACTED]

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