

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

**Applicant Name:** Northeastern Utah Educational Services

**Project Title:** SMILE: Supportive Missions Improve Literacy Education

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

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

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

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

Competitive Preference Priority 1— Returning Education to the States  
 Competitive Preference Priority 2— Education Choice (High-Impact Tutoring)

**Total number of students to be served by the project:** 6,000

**Grade level(s) to be served by the project:** 5

**Definition of high-need students:** Students who are living in poverty or who are far below grade level.

**Brief description of project activities:** Build a Centralized Learning Hub to document best practices for implementation and scaling of Mission.io. Evaluation of the impact of Mission.io Literacy on student outcomes.

**Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes:** The project will: (1) implement strategies to deliver services more efficiently at scale and maintain effectiveness; (2) evaluate the implementation and impact of Mission.io; (3) disseminate findings, information, and resources; and (4) track progress on scaling and sustainment.

**Summary of how the project is innovative:** Access to collaborative, real-world Missions where students engage in literacy through cross-content area learning.

**Other studies related to the proposed project:** Extending prior research by Milien et al (2025), which showed evidence of the impact of [Mission.io](#). The project addresses the recommendations from Vaughn et al., (2022; WWC 2022007).

**Proposed implementation sites:** 80 elementary schools across Utah.

**Organizations partnering with this project:** NUES, Mission.io, and [REDACTED] Evaluation