

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

**Applicant Name:** University of Kansas Center for Research Inc.

**Project Title:** Collaborative to Improve Classroom Engagement and Outcomes for Native American and Rural Students

**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

**Total number of students to be served by the project:** 24,147

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

**Definition of high-need students:** Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch

**Brief description of project activities:** The University of Kansas along with Northern Arizona University with rural and native education organization leaders will evaluate and scale implementation of ClassWide-FIT (CW-FIT), an evidence-based (WWC Intervention Report) classroom engagement program to native serving and rural schools with adaptations for cultural relevance and utilizing the innovative CW-FIT Artificial Intelligence Coaching Supports.

**Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes:** This project will expand CW-FIT by 1) providing culturally relevant adaptations to the CW-FIT program; 2) adapting CW-FIT for flexibility in coaching, training and implementation utilizing the innovative new CW-FIT Mobile Application and CW-FIT AI Coach. These innovations will contribute to the CW-FIT evidence-base for: (a) improving academic engagement and achievement for students and (b) improving teachers' engagement practices. A multi-site cluster RCT conducted by Abt (an independent evaluator) will compare outcomes for students in CW-FIT classes to students in business-as-usual classrooms.

**Summary of how the project is innovative:** This project will adapt CW-FIT intervention components and procedures for cultural relevance to native serving schools and introduce the CW-FIT Mobile Application and the CW-FIT AI Coach. The CW-FIT Mobile App allows the teacher to record themselves and then receive rapid feedback as to their engagement practices and CW-FIT fidelity. The CW-FIT AI Coach provides teachers "in the moment" answers to questions on how to support students.

**Other studies related to the proposed project:** 4 RCTs of CW-FIT have demonstrated strong positive outcomes across grades K-8 (see ████████ et al., 2015; ████████ et al., 2016; ████████ et al., 2018; ████████ et al., 2021), 2019 EIR Mid-phase grant #U411B190025.

**Proposed implementation sites:** The RCT will be conducted across 120 schools (grades K-8) in rural (NCES District codes 32, 33, 41-43) and native serving schools within our 6 state partners: Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

**Organizations partnering with this project:** University of Kansas, Abt, Northern Arizona University, Active Logic, and 6 National Rural Education State Affiliates along with 56 Rural LEAs located throughout Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.