

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

**Applicant Name:** Waterford Institute

**Project Title:** Summer Support for School Success (Project S4)

**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— Addressing the Impact of COVID–19 on Students, Educators, and Faculty

**Total number of students to be served by the project:** 3,600 students (600 in Years 1-2 and 1,200 in Years 3-4)

**Grade level(s) to be served by the project:** Rising Kindergarteners and Rising 1st Graders

**Definition of high-need students:** Rising kindergarteners and rising first graders residing in rural areas, from families with low incomes, students that attend under-resourced schools, students with disabilities, dual language learners, students from underrepresented minority communities, or students from non-white minority groups.

**Brief description of project activities:** Develop and refine the innovative Summer Learning Path (SLP) program, collaborating with local partners for recruitment, providing training and support, and evaluating outcomes, with a focus on enhancing foundational literacy and math skills through technology for early learners.

**Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes:** Serve 3,600 rural students; refine the SLP model, conduct external, rigorous evaluation; improve school readiness and academic success in rural areas.

**Summary of how the project is innovative:** Technology-enhanced early learning that extends learning time through a scalable and cost-effective educational solution.

**Other studies related to the proposed project:** Evaluation and Training Institute. (2023b); Hobbs & Overby. (2019); Shamir, Ortiz-Wood, Pocklington, & Yoder. (2022); Shamir, Plockington & Yoder. (2023).

**Proposed implementation sites:** Texas, Oklahoma, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Missouri, Mississippi, and New Hampshire.

**Organizations partnering with this project:** Partners for Rural Impact, Jackson State University, State of New Hampshire Department of Education, Litchfield School District, Appalachian Education Service Agency (AESAs), National Summer Learning Association, and Westat.