

Abstract Narrative

Title: Refining and Expanding HEROES: A Literacy Intervention for Young Students with IEPs

Type of Grant: Mid-Phase *Absolute Priorities:* AP1: Moderate Evidence and AP2: Field-

Initiated Innovations – General. **Target Number of Students To Be Served in the Project:** At

least 1,820. **Grade levels:** K-4th. **Definition of High-Needs:** 6-9 year olds with individualized

educational plans for reading (IEPs). **Brief Project Description:** The overall goal is to expand,

refine, and ascertain the impact of HEROES, a literacy intervention that we created with the

support of an Early-Phase Grant (formerly called i3 Development grant)). HEROES is already

substantially more effective than current practices which typically result in students remaining

on IEPs for their literacy instruction while the gap with their peers continues to grow over time.

Summary of Project Objectives: Our key project objectives are to: (1) Serve 1,820 more students

(2) Prepare 192 more HEROES teachers (3) Prepare 4 more literacy coaches (4) test HEROES'

face-to face-teacher training method against a hybrid training model (5) Identify the optimal

number of lessons per week and the time per lesson. (6) Test HEROES' 1-1 instructional setting

against 1:2. (7) Test a gradient of text level for introducing new books (8) Test procedures for

fluent and phrased reading (9) Test if the addition of writing in the lesson framework increases

HEROES' effect. **Special Project Features:** Two sub-populations we plan to expand services to

include English Learners and students in rural areas. Targeting California schools will greatly

increase our efforts to reach EL students who have reading IEPs. We also have partnered with the

Ohio Small Rural Collaborative which is a consortium of over 36 small rural school districts in Ohio.

Partners: Clemson University, Georgia State University, and St Mary's College.