

Abstract:

Scaling *STARR* (Supporting Teachers Across Rural/Remote Regions): A Systems Approach to Mentoring New Teachers is a Mid-phase Education Innovation and Research project that will serve over 7,500 K-12 high needs and Indigenous students in rural and remote regions of Alaska. Much like other states serving rural/remote communities with significant number of Indigenous students Alaska faces a major challenge of teacher quality and retention. These schools face structural barriers to student success, including geographic remoteness, cultural disconnect between educators and students and their families, and limited access to quality instruction due to high teacher turnover. *STARR* will (a) compare the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of two early career teacher mentoring delivery methods (in-person and virtual) to expand the benefits of the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project's (*ASMP*) validated mentoring model (absolute priority 1) and (b) enhance the cultural competence specifically to address student social emotional learning (SEL) and wellbeing (absolute priority 2) in high-needs (Title 1) rural/remote schools and schools that serve largely Alaska Native communities experiencing persistent teacher quality and retention challenges. *STARR* has strong relationships with state education partners including over a dozen rural school districts, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, and the state legislature to increase advocacy and funding opportunities within a long-term fiscal plan. With the proposed development of a portfolio of revenue sources and the cost savings the potential for this project to impact the Alaska education system long-term is high. We also plan to increase school and district capacity to engage in online mentoring and support of early career teachers. In addition, we anticipate significant cost savings of 30% per teacher because of reduced travel costs.