

Early Phase Competition -- Absolute Priority 4 (SEL)  
PowerMyLearning, Inc  
S411C210084

**Family Playlists: Improving High-Need Students' Academic Performance and SEL in Response to COVID-19**

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**ABSTRACT**

PowerMyLearning (PML) proposes an **Early-Phase** project—called **Family Playlists: Improving High-Need Students' Academic Performance and SEL in Response to COVID-19**—designed to improve algebra readiness among students with high needs, addressing AP1: Demonstrates a Rationale, AP4: Field-Initiated Innovations-Achievement & SEL, CPP2: Impact of COVID-19, and CPP3: Equity. (We define “**high-needs students**” as those eligible for federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch). The project will serve approximately 4,500 unique students in grades 4-5 at 29 schools in Miami, Florida. **Activities, Objectives, and Outcomes:** The PML team will develop, implement, and evaluate a program that includes teacher professional development (PD) and an innovative mobile technology tool called Family Playlists to improve students' math performance and SEL. Teachers will use Family Playlists to have students teach academic concepts to their families and have families then provide feedback. PML's PD will support teachers to use this feedback to awaken to biases they might hold; to strengthen teacherstudent relationships, to create more inclusive and supportive learning environments, and to differentiate instruction and meet students' academic needs. During the Formative Phase (1.5 years), PML will work with five schools to finalize fidelity measures and refine key aspects of the program model (these schools will not be in the impact study). During the Evaluation Phase (2 years), we will implement the optimized model with fidelity in 12 schools, while Abt conducts an RCT evaluation designed to meet WWC standards without reservations. For the remainder of the project, PML will deliver delayed treatment to the control schools and disseminate the results. This project will help the field consider how homework that offers students an opportunity to teach others and to feel autonomy, competence, and relatedness to their families and teachers can improve student outcomes in other subjects and grades and can influence future practice. **Partner:** Miami-Dade County Public Schools. **Evaluator:** Abt Associates.