Applicant Name: The Strategic Education Research Partnership Institute

Project Title: Scaling Students' Success with STARI: Expanding Eligibility, Support, and Spread

Type of Grant Requested: ☒ Expansion-Phase

Absolute Priorities the Project Addresses:

☒ Absolute Priority 1—Demonstrate a Rationale (Early), Moderate (Mid), Strong (Expansion)

☒ Absolute Priority 2-- Field-Initiated Innovations—General

Competitive Preference Priorities the Project Addresses:

☒ Competitive Preference Priority 1—Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities

☒ 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: 15,000

Grade level(s) to be served by the project: 6, 7, 8

Your definition of high-need students: 6th-8th graders who read 2 or more years below grade level

Brief description of proposed project, including project activities: Supported by strong evidence of effectiveness, the Strategic Adolescent Reading Intervention (STARI) will scale to 80 schools in 4 states. Project activities include addressing key barriers to scale; conducting an impact study, an implementation study, a service contrast study, a replication study, and a cost-effectiveness analysis; and disseminating the product and project findings to facilitate STARI's spread.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: Improve the reading skills of middle school students, demonstrating effects of STARI as compared to BAU; Build teacher capacity for effective literacy instruction; Determine for whom and under what conditions STARI is most effective; Create an affordable package of supports for schools; Disseminate results and expand use of STARI nationwide

Describe how the proposed project is innovative: Unlike other reading interventions, STARI integrates instruction in foundational skills with instruction in deep comprehension and grade-level skills, and addresses engagement and efficacy, critical factors in supporting adolescent readers.

Identify other studies and/practice related to the proposed project: IES Reading for Understanding

Grant R305F100026; Kim et al., 2017; WWC ref. no. 755352265; EIR Mid-Phase Grant U411B170043

Proposed implementation sites: Mississippi; New Mexico; two Cohort 2 states (to be recruited)

List all organizations partnering with this project: MDRC