

Cross County School District - S374A230010

Recommended Three-year Funding Amount: \$2,154,549.00

Cross County School District, a rural remote Local Education Agency (LEA) in Arkansas, is applying for a Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program grant to a) increase the effectiveness of teachers, b) increase the effectiveness of principals, and c) improve student achievement in its two high-need schools serving 639 students, 51 teachers, and 2 school leaders (Absolutely Priority 2). The district is partnering with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), a national nonprofit, to implement Growing and Retaining Educators in Arkansas through TAP (GREAT).

The GREAT project strategies, activities, and objectives will build on the work the district has done to establish a more effective educator evaluation system and to enhance their existing performance-based compensation system by offering expanded teacher leadership roles that support instruction, new teacher induction, and character education (Absolute Priority 1). Through this project, Cross County School District will increase the effectiveness of educators, thereby reducing the variation in effectiveness across and within schools, and also better enable us to recruit, develop, and retain certified, effective, and diverse educators in an effort to promote educational equity and adequacy in resources and opportunity for underserved students (Competitive Preference Priority 1; Competitive Preference Priority 2).

The GREAT project will use NIET's evidence-based TAP System to strengthen instructional practices and better support our efforts to use educator performance results to inform school- and district-level human capital decisions. Cross County School District is positioned for success in implementing and sustaining the project, with strong support from parents, educators, the school board, local and state policies, and a mission that values preparing children to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens in a global society.