Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS), North Carolina (Planning) Fostering Diverse Schools

Over the two-year grant period, WS/FCS proposes conducting a six-month mapping and assessment phase to analyze current and historical patterns of enrollment and attendance, as well as analyzing the impact of the current school choice, zoning, and student assignment policies. This first phase will result in potential revised models for our district, which may include new attendance boundaries or zones, student assignment policies, and/or other mechanisms designed to increase socioeconomic diversity across our schools. WS/FCS will then, across two rounds of stakeholder feedback session spanning approximately 15 months, engage with 5,000 families, parents, and caregivers; 2,000 staff members; and 1,000 students to develop a comprehensive plan that addresses the needs of all students and promotes a well-rounded educational environment. In the project's final three-month stage, a short-list of proposed models selected by stakeholders will be presented to the Board of Education, with the Board approving a finalized comprehensive plan by the conclusion of the grant period. WS/FCS is confident that our proposed approach will adequately capture a broad and representative population of our families, students, and staff – the district will utilize intentional recruitment strategies to ensure the voices of historically underrepresented groups are represented throughout the project. The district – and, critically, our community – are committed to undertaking and implementing this critically important work.