Early-Phase Competition Absolute Priority 4 (SEL)
School Board of Duval County
S411C230166
Duval IDEAS (Inclusion Diversifies Education for All Students)

ABSTRACT: Duval County Public Schools (DCPS), an LEA in north Florida, in partnership with the University of North Florida (UNF) requests $4,000,000 over 5 years for Duval IDEAS: Inclusion Diversifies Education for All Students. The proposed project will evaluate the effect of a unique professional learning series on the academic and behavioral outcomes of students with a range of identified disabilities. The project targets K-5 teachers and students in inclusive general education classroom environments and has the potential for replication nationwide.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) policy has determined that most special education students are best taught in general education settings alongside students without disabilities. However, an ongoing problem of practice is that effective instruction in inclusion settings is highly dependent on the teacher's ability to adjust to the varied learning needs of the students with disabilities; and there are few teachers trained in these skills. Duval IDEAS leverages a professional learning + PLC model designed by DCPS and UNF Co-Investigators to provide evidence-based competencies to general education teachers who teach students with disabilities.

The goals of Duval IDEAS are to: 1) Improve the behavioral and academic outcomes of high-need students with disabilities in inclusion settings; 2) Increase general education teacher knowledge, efficacy, practice, and retention; and 3) Refine a replicable, sustainable model for teacher professional learning in implementing evidence-based High-Leverage Practices with special education students whose least restrictive environment is in general education classrooms.

Studies show that effective instruction for students with disabilities should be learner-centered and holistic, and has the potential to support students' ability to remain in inclusive education environments. The project will employ an experimental design that will follow up to 360 teachers and their students after participating in the IDEAS training series, compared to a matched