

**Early-Phase Competition Absolute Priority 4 (SEL)**

**WestEd**

**S411C230033**

**Project Pathways: Creating the Pathways to Improve Student Mental Health and Well-Being**

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**Applicant Name:** WestEd

**Project Title:** Project Pathways: Creating the Pathways to Improve Student Mental Health and Well-Being

**Type of Grant Requested:** (select one)  Early-Phase  Mid-Phase  Expansion

**Absolute Priorities the Project Addresses:** (select all that apply)

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

Absolute Priority 2-- Field-Initiated Innovations—General

Absolute Priority 3-- Promoting STEM Education

Absolute Priority 4-- Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs

Absolute Priority 5-- Educator Recruitment and Retention

**Competitive Preference Priorities the Project Addresses:** (select all that apply)

Competitive Preference Priority 1— Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities: Implementers and Partners

Competitive Preference Priority 2—Supporting a Diverse Educator Workforce and Professional Growth to Strengthen Student Learning\* (FOR EARLY-PHASE AP5 APPLICANTS ONLY)

**Total number of students to be served by the project:** 18,603

**Grade level(s) to be served by the project:** 6th – 8th grades

**Definition of high-need students:** All students experiencing internalizing mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety, feelings of hopelessness, and social withdrawal, but particularly students from diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds.

**Brief description of project activities:** We will create a free digital program of best practices in equitable data-based decision-making (DBDM), improving universal prevention of MH concerns, and connecting students with internalizing support needs to evidence-based intervention.

**Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes:** We will (1) develop the Pathways digital program, (2) co-design the key components with educators, students, and families, (3) evaluate the impact on all students and students with internalizing mental health concerns, and (4) disseminate the findings and program. Universal SEL will improve, and students will get the support they need.

**Summary of how the project is innovative:** Create a new digital system to help schools build mental health systems and accurately identify students with internalizing mental health concerns.

**Other studies related to the proposed project:** Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF), Team Initiated Problem-Solving (TIPS) process, SWPBIS, MTSS

**Proposed implementation sites:** 27 middle schools in Placer County, California

**Organizations partnering with this project:** Placer County Office of Education, University of California,