I. BACKGROUND.

The parties will work with the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education and a cadre of experts in preschool special education as subcontractors and consultants to conduct a survey that will determine what special education services 3 to 5 year olds are receiving nationally and assess the feasibility of conducting an impact study on preschool special education interventions. The base period of the contract will include the survey and evidence review to inform decisions about study design options for an impact study. If the option is exercised, we will further refine the impact evaluation design, recruit schools to participate, conduct random assignment, and work with intervention developers to train program teachers in the intervention. It is anticipated that a second phase contract would then be competed to complete data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Dr. Snyder will serve as co-principal investigator along with Dr. John Deke and Dr. Samuel Odom and will apply her expertise in preschool special education to all aspects of the project including design of the descriptive study and survey instruments, and report on the survey findings. If the option is exercised, she will participate in the technical work group meeting for the impact study, will assist in recruiting, advise on instrumentation, and support implementation of the intervention.