

Narrative of Scope of Work

Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Evaluation (TAPS # 23A161)

Project Abstract and Design

The primary goal of the evaluation is to describe and assess the impact of the *Early Children Music Education Incentive Pilot Program* on student academic performance. The program is designed to offer a comprehensive music program to K – 2 students and is being piloted in three school districts: Alachua, Marion, and Miami-Dade. Four Alachua, three Marion, and three Miami-Dade schools are participating in the program.

To assess the impact of the music initiative on the participating students' academic performance, the evaluation team will use district quantitative student achievement data and will collect qualitative music classroom observation data from each participating school. The quantitative data will include reading and math progress monitoring scores and course grades. We will analyze the quantitative data in two ways:

- 1) We will use a quasi-experimental design with matching to compare the academic performance of participating students with the performance of students who either participated in a traditional music class or did not participate in a music class;
- 2) We will use a repeated measures design to measure the academic growth of participating students by comparing their test scores across three test administrations during the school year.

To provide a qualitative evaluation of the participating students, we will conduct classroom observations to describe and assess the students' classroom engagement level. At least one classroom observation will be conducted in each of the 10 participating schools. Within each district, one observation will be made in a kindergarten class, a first-grade class, and a second-grade class. The data will be analyzed by using content analysis.

A second and related goal of the evaluation is to assess and describe the fidelity of program delivery. To evaluate the fidelity of program delivery, we will collect music teacher interview data and survey data from the participating music teachers, school principals, and district administrators. A content analysis will be used to analyze the interview data. Descriptive statistics will be used to analyze the survey data.

Identification of Impact and/or Project Outcomes

The primary outcome of the evaluation will be a *Final Evaluation Report* describing the impact of the music initiative on student academic performance and the extent to which the initiative was delivered as expected. The evaluation will be a success if it provides findings and recommendations that can be used to guide decisions about the future direction of the *Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program*. The music program will be considered a success if it's delivered with fidelity and contributes to the academic performance of participating students.

Support for Strategic Plan

The evaluation results and recommendation will provide policymakers and educators with sufficient information needed to judge the extent to which the music pilot contributes to *higher student achievement*, a goal included in the *State Board of Education's K-20 Strategic Plan*.