



University Florida, College of Education

Statement of Work

Proposal EDU 13-068

Validating the SunBay Middle School Digital Mathematics Program

BACKGROUND

SRI International, a non-profit organization with a track record of success in scaling up research-based educational innovations and conducting high quality evaluations at scale, plans to respond to the Investing in Innovation Fund Grant Program (i3) with a proposal for a validation grant under *Absolute Priority 4: Effective Use of Technology*. In the coming years, the State of Florida will be transitioning from the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) to the Common Core standards. In conjunction with this transition in standards, the current state assessment, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), will also be transitioning to the new PARCC assessment. In response to this need, SRI will scale up its SunBay Mathematics program in Florida, which specifically aims to help middle schools transition their curriculum and instruction to higher standards in mathematics, such as reflected in the Draft Common Core Standards and the NGSSS.

The College of Education at University of Florida (UF) is being asked to submit a proposal to participate in this Department of Education i3 proposal.

In a pilot study, a partnership between SRI International, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP), and Pinellas County Schools (PCS), implemented and evaluated a set of digital mathematics materials, building on SRI's prior randomized experiments in Texas. Consistent results in Florida and Texas show that a combination of teacher professional development (PD) and digital mathematics materials improve student mathematics learning. In conjunction with this pilot research, the team also determined that an effective scale-up and sustainability strategy is to develop and deploy targeted, research-based units with complementary PD to develop teacher capacity.

UF is being asked to support the participation of schools in two school districts, expected to be Palm Beach County Schools and Broward County Public Schools, in a randomized control trial (RCT). UF will specifically (a) work with all project partners in the design and delivery of on-site teacher professional development for teachers in the RCT districts; (b) serve as an advisor in the development process during which the project creates and modifies materials; (c) coordinate with project partners in executing the project; and (d) provide access to a certificate and/or Master's and/or Master's program based on the effective teaching of mathematics through the use of technology-based units to middle school math teachers in the RCT districts.

OBJECTIVE

We intend to engage all middle school mathematics teachers at treatment schools in the RCT districts - an estimated 30 middle schools (treatment group) during this project.

REQUIREMENTS

UF will provide SRI with data substantiating their status as "a nonprofit organization with a record of increasing student achievement" in order that they meet the i3 eligibility requirements for official partners. This write up needs to be provided in UF's response to SRI and will be adapted for inclusion in the technical narrative of the proposal.

UF will provide teachers in the RCT districts the opportunity to enroll in the certificate and/or Master's and/or Master's program offered at the University. UF College of Education will also work with SRI and other project collaborators to engage in a process of continuous improvement of the courses over the life of the project. It is expected that UF will enroll at least 2 teachers per school in the treatment schools (currently estimated to be about 30 schools total) in the certificate and/or Master's and/or Master's program during the experimental years of the project, and support each teacher to finish the certificate and/or Master's process in a timely manner. In addition, it is expected that these certificate and/or Master's program will be offered as part of the UF College of Education ongoing PD offerings once the project is complete.

UF will allocate the necessary resources to ensure the proper execution of the project and evaluation activities. This includes designating/ hiring enough PD facilitators to support the RCT districts and acquiring the necessary hardware and software to fully participate in the project. UF is also expected to support, both in the certificate and/or Master's program and the on-site professional development, the use of the SRI technology platform, which is cloud-based and runs on common hardware platforms (such as desktop/laptop computers and iPad tablets).

UF will collaborate with SRI and all other partners to ensure that the requirements of the grant are met in a timely manner.