

Abstract – Literacy Apprenticeship: Reading, Writing and Learning in the Disciplines

The Strategic Literacy Initiative (SLI) at WestEd submits this proposal for a SEED grant **addressing Absolute Priority 2 and Competitive Priorities 2 and 3**. The proposed project will increase the number of highly effective secondary teachers of science, English language arts and history/social studies by providing a research-validated teacher professional development (PD) and instructional model to schools in four partnering states. The model, Reading Apprenticeship, improves teachers' knowledge and instructional repertoires for teaching academic reading and writing in all academic subject areas; these practices in turn increase students' ability to meet the reading, writing and learning proficiencies described in the Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

SLI will integrate online learning components into Reading Apprenticeship PD, resulting in a more cost-effective, flexible PD model for broad dissemination. SLI and its affiliates in IN, MI, PA and CA will provide 1000 secondary teachers with 60+ hours of the hybrid PD (online and face-to-face). The project will also leverage the capacity of local state coordinators and facilitators already in place to sustain and expand literacy instruction by providing ongoing support to ~180 local administrators and teacher leaders in participating secondary schools. This will enable site teams to introduce the instructional model to an additional 2000 teachers.

A rigorous, independent evaluation is designed to provide both formative and summative information about the impact of the project. Expected outcomes are: 1) increased numbers of teachers who implement effective literacy practices; 2) improved student confidence and proficiency in academic reading and writing; 3) increased capacity of administrators and teacher leaders to support continuing professional learning in their local contexts; and 4) development and piloting of new, highly effective online professional development tools.