

## **Validating the Collaborative Regional Education (CORE) Comprehensive Model: Technology in Rural Classrooms**

**Absolute Priorities:** 4- Effective use of Technology & 5- Serving Rural Communities

**Competitive Priorities:** 1- Improving Cost Effectiveness and Productivity; 2- Broad Adoption of Effective Practices; & 3- Novice i3 Applicant

Jacksonville State University's Collaborative Regional Education (CORE) model will expand project-based learning and technology in rural classrooms to improve the college and career readiness of 8th-12th grade students. The project provides professional development to selected teachers through intensive quarterly workshops and a 3-day conference, CORE Academy. In addition, the project will provide teacher and classroom technology, classroom support, change management support, partnership-building and dual enrollment scholarships to sustain change on multiple levels. The randomized controlled trial and evaluation plan will be implemented by ICF, International.

With a primary goal of improving college and work readiness among 8th-12th grade students in high need and rural schools, CORE will: 1) establish and expand partnerships with schools, private sector and community-based partners; 2) Expand use of technology in CORE classrooms; 3) Expand use of project-based learning in CORE classrooms through intensive professional development; 4) Increase classroom support for teachers through electronic ecosystem, mentoring and online communities; 5) Prepare CORE students for college and work, by providing dual enrollment, advising services and implementing formative assessment strategies; and 6) Support change management with monitoring, planning and implementing strategies to mitigate resistance to change. It is estimated that 58,800 students will be involved in this study, including students in schools associated with regional university CORE incubators nation-wide.

Partners include the American Association for State Colleges and Universities, the Alabama State Department of Education, the School Superintendents of Alabama, Council for Aid to Education, PivotPoint, and 18 school systems representing almost 10% of all PK-12 students in Alabama. Additional regional universities with PK-12 partners will be added in the second phase of the project.