Validating the SunBay Middle School Digital Mathematics Program:

An Innovative Approach to Increasing Student Achievement Using Technology

SRI International will lead a validation grant to address a critical need for middle school students and teachers: increased achievement on the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM). This project will validate SunBay Mathematics as an integrated technology-rich approach to the implementation of CCSSM while measuring student outcomes on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career assessments as well as teacher outcomes (Absolute Priority 4c). The project seeks to improve outcomes while reducing costs (Competitive Priority 1) via collaborative learning, digital workflows, and increased use of online teacher professional development. The project also strengthens SunBay’s modular approach to introducing effective teaching practices with technology (Competitive Priority 2). The project qualifies for Competitive Priority 3, Supporting Novice Applications.

Project activities are organized by 5 objectives: (1) increase student achievement in Florida schools; (2) investigate models of cost-effectiveness; (3) codify and refine SunBay’s modular program for enhancing the effectiveness of mathematics teachers in using technology; (4) conduct an evaluation to establish outcomes, meet What Works Clearinghouse standards, and analyze data to improve the program; and (5) strengthen capacity to expand the program upon achieving favorable outcomes, both throughout Florida and to the nation.

Partners are Broward and Palm Beach county school districts in Florida, the Lastinger Center at the University of Florida, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, and an external evaluator, the Consortium for Policy Research in Education. Over 100,000 students will be served.

Expected outcomes include rigorous evaluation of program effectiveness, cost savings, training and toolkits for a key SunBay practice, and readiness to scale the SunBay Mathematics throughout Florida and the nation.