ABSTRACT: MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

Montgomery County Schools (MCS), located in North Carolina's remote Uwharrie region, is comprised of 11 schools serving 4,141 students, 74% of whom are economically disadvantaged, qualifying our system under the U.S. DOE Rural and Low-Income School program. Our students primarily represent high-need subgroups, which are historically at-risk for educational failure. This combined with barriers to educational technology access presented by our rural locale, creates a cycle of inequity that traps our students in poverty. To combat this inequity, MCS developed *ACCESS: A Culture Creating Effective Systems for Success*, which addresses both **Priority 6: Serving Rural Communities** and **Priority 5: Effective Use of Technology (Subpart B)** as an i3 Development project. *ACCESS* will serve all students and teachers K-12, implementing a districtwide redesign of educational practices by imbedding a culture of technology-based education, with intentional effort to evaluate, refine, and disseminate an effective model for replication by: 1) providing high-quality teaching and learning resources to engage students and support anytime, anywhere access; 2) expanding the reach of effective teachers through connected teaching, instructional redesign, and high-quality professional learning; and 3) creating a systematic process for real-time teacher and student access to online assessment data to improve instruction and monitor progress in meeting college- and career-ready standards. Ultimately, our model will help validate the components necessary for rural students to have "access" to a technology-based culture that supports student engagement and achievement. Our partners include: Appalachian State University, Montgomery Community College Foundation, Anson and Bladen County Schools, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation, CenturyLink, Jordan Lumber, and Friendly Chevrolet Buick as well as a host of other local businesses, colleges, and government entities.