

Abstract

1. **Project title:** Central Ohio Partnership for College and Career Readiness Expansion (CCRE)
2. **Grant Requested:** Investing in Innovation Fund (i3) Validation Grant (84.411B)
3. **Absolute priority:** Absolute Priority 3—Implementing Comprehensive High School Reform and Redesign
4. **Competitive Preference Priorities:** Competitive Preference Priority 1—Improving Cost-Effectiveness and Productivity; Competitive Preference Priority 2—Enabling Broad Adoption of Effective Practices; Competitive Preference Priority 3—Supporting Novice i3 Applicants
5. **Description:**
 - Project overview:** This i3 project will validate the evidence-based Early College High School design by engaging low-income and minority students earning college credit.
 - Project objectives:** **Objective 1.1:** To create the infrastructure to offer ECHS to large numbers of students who are enrolled in at least seven different school districts; **Objective 1.2:** To scale Early College High School designs in at least seven different districts; **Objective 1.3:** To offer wrap around supportive services to ECHS students; **Objective 2.1:** To strengthen school and district capacity to sustain and expand ECHS implementation through professional development of principals, teachers, and staff; **Objective 2.2:** To document implementation and create a demonstration site to support strategies for scale-up in central Ohio, statewide, and nationally; **Objective 3.1:** To evaluate the implementation of the ECHS model and measure the results of participants for higher rates of achievement among students; **Objective 3.2:** To disseminate the lessons learned and best practices to national audiences.
 - Summary of project objectives:** **Goal 1:** Increase college credit achievement and college entry for high school students in targeted school districts serving a large percentage of low-income and minority students; **Goal 2:** Position Early College High School designs for sustainability in the seven school districts and establish them as exemplars for further scale-up within the Central Ohio Region, across Ohio, and nationally; **Goal 3:** Provide evidence of the successfulness in community college leadership of the ECHS model through comprehensive evaluation plan.
 - Expected outcomes:** (1) At least 10,000 students served by schools adopting the Early College High School; (2) At least a 5% increase in students will take and satisfactorily pass college preparatory courses; (3) At least a 5% reduction in dropout rates as an indicator of higher graduation rates; (4) At least 90% of high school students will graduate with some college credit.
 - The CCRE project will include new avenues for expansion and adoption due to its unique makeup including: community college leadership of the implementation; multi-district regional partnership resulting in economies of scale; an existing college-led dual credit foundation supported by state policy; and a recognized national partner in JFF with over a decade in designing and leading the ECHS reform movement.
6. **Target number of students served in the project over the five-year period:** 10,000
7. **Partners:** Columbus State Community College (fiscal agent), Columbus City School District, Groveport Madison School District, Hamilton Local School District, Licking Heights Local School District, Reynoldsburg City School District, South-Western City School District, Whitehall City School District, Jobs for the Future (JFF), Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina Greensboro (external evaluator), Metro Early College High School (collaborator), and the Central Ohio Compact (collaborator)