

### ***Lafayette Skills: Abstract***

Lafayette Parish School System (LPSS – applicant / fiscal agent) proposes a *Skills for Success* grant to serve high needs students attending low-performing middle schools in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. *Lafayette Skills* will expand upon existing strategies serving middle school students (grades 5 – 8) piloted during implementation of a 2014 U.S. Department of Education *GEAR UP* grant (**Absolute Priority 1**). Coordinated efforts will support the development of non-cognitive skills in high needs youth necessary to achieve positive social, emotional and academic outcomes (**Absolute Priority 2** – LPSS defines “high needs students” as students at risk of education failure attending schools with free / reduced lunch rates that exceed 50%). *Lafayette Skills* will test a guiding hypothesis: **Hypothesis: Increasing the intensity and scope of interventions that strengthen non-cognitive skills of middle school students will yield increasingly positive outcomes.** Implementation of the project will help participating schools and educators improve quality of services available to high need students and meet and exceed the following project goal: **Goal: To promote the development of vital non-cognitive skills in high needs students.**

To achieve the project goal, the Task Force designed three distinct but cohesive Layers of Support that provide differing levels of intervention intensity: Layer 1: School Supports; Layer 2: Teacher Supports; Layer 3: Student Supports. Each Layer of Support will be implemented at multiple LPSS middle schools educating high needs students impacted by poverty, minority group isolation, crime, low academic attainment and chronic discipline issues:

<b>Layer of Support</b>	<b>Target Schools</b>	<b>Intensity of Supports</b>
Layer 1: School Support	Breaux Middle School Judice Middle School	• School Supports
Layer 2: Teacher Supports	Acadian Middle School Scott Middle School	• School Supports • Teacher Supports
Layer 3: Student Supports	Carencro Middle School Lafayette Middle School	• School Supports • Teacher Supports • Student Supports

Lafayette Parish School System will contract with an external evaluation firm to conduct process and outcome evaluation of *Lafayette Skills* utilizing a random control design to assess outcomes, identify effective strategies and promote sustainability / replicability / scalability of the effort.