

ABSTRACT

West Virginia Regional Education Service Agency 2 will lead a consortium of four school districts to implement *Whole School, Whole Student (WSWS)*, an innovative model of non-cognitive skills development for middle-school students. *WSWS* builds on an existing school model (Catalyst Schools) currently being piloted in five schools in West Virginia to move schools to greater site-based management. Expanding on this changing relationship between districts and schools, *WSWS* gives schools the structure, time, and tools they need to support students as they learn essential core content and gain a voice in their own learning. *WSWS* responds to identified needs to increased academic proficiency for high-need students and enhanced opportunities for student leadership and teacher collaboration. The proposed project will serve seven schools, 2,293 high-risk students, and 151 teachers.

WSWS represents empowerment for the entire school community through teacher-centered facilitation and student-centered learning that meet at the intersection of non-cognitive skill development for students and re-imagined time for teachers. Four non-cognitive tools and activities will be melded together in this model including infrastructure transformation with school-based logic models and re-imagined time for teacher collaboration; building positive experiences of hope, belonging, and engagement with Battelle for Kids including resources that support site-based infrastructure changes; nurturing student aspirations through the Quaglia Aspirations Institute and Student Leadership Institutes; and cultivating a Growth Mindset to impact students' belief in their ability to succeed. The project also includes a strong research component to assure added knowledge to the field of education and readiness for scale-up in multiple high-risk school environments nationwide.

WSWS is a model that utilizes several separate interventions which, on their own, can have some impact on long-term goals of student achievement. By bringing these together in a cohesive model, we can demonstrate to schools nationwide how to interweave multiple innovative interventions to create a system of change to support student success.