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.