Abstract – Successful Classrooms: Successful Students

Southern Boone County School District (SoBoCo) and its partners from the University of Missouri, the eMINTS National Center and the Assessment Resource Center (ARC), propose to create the Successful Classrooms: Successful Students model over a three-year period. The model will use existing high-quality eMINTS professional development (PD) to help middle school teachers create classrooms where all students, especially those facing challenges such as poverty, acquire non-cognitive skills (positive behaviors) needed to participate in complex learning activities. The PD will include face-to-face (FtF) and online sessions with in-classroom coaching for teachers. The project will serve 75 teachers and 1,530 students in rural Missouri schools. SoBoCo, eMINTS, and ARC have significant expertise in the relevant theoretical and practical aspects required to meet both Absolute Priority 1 – Developing Non-cognitive Skills in Middle Grade Students and Absolute Priority 2 – Supporting High Need Students.

Project goals also include measuring outcomes through a Random Controlled Trial (RCT) as well as monitoring project processes to ensure that activities are occurring as intended. ARC will complete an RCT to analyze how students in classrooms where their teachers received PD and use web-based tools perform compared with students whose teachers do not have the same PD or tools. The project will result in a fully developed model that includes six products: 1) guides for delivering FtF PD, 2) digital PD materials for teachers, 3) guides for providing in-classroom coaching for teachers, 4) an online facilitated PD course, 5) a web-based Best Practices Toolkit containing examples of successful classroom practices used by SoBoCo teachers along with videos showing teachers using the practices, and 6) an Implementation Checklist. The results of the RCT along with the six other products derived from the project will allow schools to replicate the model at many different grade levels and subject areas.