

## **St. Vrain Valley School District, CO**

### **Skills for Success: Growth Mindset in Schools to Watch CFDA # 84.215H**

St. Vrain Valley School District is the lead applicant. The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform (the Forum), a national non-profit, will serve as the third party partner to coordinate all grant operations, including fiscal management, in California and Colorado. The project will work with 6 middle-grades schools to review, refine, implement, and evaluate the non-cognitive approaches (**Absolute Priority 1—Developing Non-Cognitive Skills**) of academic perseverance and academic mindsets. These are approaches “commonly associated with being a ‘good’ student” (Farrington, Roderick, Allensworth, Nagaoka, Keys, Johnson & Beechum, 2012, p. 8). Academic perseverance includes grit, tenacity, self-discipline, self-control, and delayed self-gratification and is a critical factor for long-term student performance. Academic mindsets are the positive mindsets that motivate students to persist at schoolwork and include such thinking as “I belong in this academic community; my ability and competence grow with my effort; I can succeed at this; and this work has value for me” (Farrington, et al, 2012, pg. 9-10). The project emphasizes classroom-level tools and strategies associated with growth mindset. It uses two laboratory Schools to Watch sites, one in CA and another in CO, already engaged in growth mindset. These two lab schools will provide training, support, and technical assistance to four other schools serving similar high-need students (**Absolute Priority 2—Supporting High-Need Students**). These four “test schools” will learn about, prepare for, and implement the growth mindset strategies and tools identified as most effective for producing school-wide adoption of growth mindset, classroom strategies to improve academic behaviors, and outcomes for students. The quasi- experimental evaluation will be conducted by the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) at the University of Illinois.