

The following are the project summaries from districts who received funding for the 2016-17 Curriculum Challenge Grant Program for the Gifted:

Brevard County Public Schools

Grow Your Grit in Accelerated Programs

Project Summary

Brevard Public Schools' Grow Your Grit in Accelerated Programs project seeks to provide current and relevant research-based curriculum to 32 high school teachers and 16 guidance counselors with the intention of impacting over 2,000 gifted high school students. The intended outcome is to train teachers and guidance counselors in the nature and needs of gifted students as well as continue a focus on growth mindset while also introducing grit, perseverance and long term goal planning. This will allow our district to continue to grow and sustain our emphasis on non-cognitive skills and strategies. We expect that as students understand how to become more resilient and learn the benefits of taking risks and suffering setbacks, they will become willing to take more rigorous coursework. There is a good deal of research which points to the connections between rigor in high school and completion of college. Our gifted students are particularly vulnerable to underachievement and risk aversion. We hope to see an increase in gifted students participating in our accelerated coursework. We offer district wide Advanced Placement courses and the Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma, the Cambridge (AICE) Diploma and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. Every high school in our district offers at least one of these programs. We intend to train a counselor and two teachers from each school in growth mindset and encouraging grit. This is a continuation of a Collaborative Challenged Grant that Brevard County received in 2014-2015. In that grant we focused on elementary students. This grant will give us the opportunity to focus on our secondary students with a specific goal of encouraging participation in rigorous coursework. It will be a district wide initiative. Our specific goal is to have at least 10% more of our gifted students enrolling and completing an accelerated course. We will hold two curriculum writing workshops and three collaborative symposiums to train teachers and guidance individuals in gifted characteristics and how to nurture grit in gifted and talented students. They then will become the trainers at their school sites. We intend that students will be identified using tools such as AP Potential (helps identify capable students based on PSAT scores) for special counseling to encourage accelerated coursework. We also will infuse in every school the opportunity for gifted and talented students to read and discuss research based articles on grit, mindset and the benefits of accelerated coursework. Most of

our schools have gifted homerooms or a period in the middle of the school day for extra time with teachers.

Awarded: \$22,998

Miami Dade County Public Schools

Opportunity Changes Everything

Project Summary

The Opportunity Changes Everything project goals focus on improving dual enrollment students' academic achievement in evidence based reading, writing and mathematics, increasing the number of gifted and high achieving students earning the National Merit, National Hispanic Scholar, QuestBridge Scholars and Florida Bright Future Scholarships and increasing the number of students earning an Associate of Arts degree from Miami Dade College through Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment credits. The Opportunity Changes Everything project is a District collaborative proposal with Miami Dade College and Prepworks. The project seeks to serve 72 gifted and 288 high achieving students in grade 11 from Miami Dade County Public Schools' Collegiate High School: School for Advanced Studies.

Awarded: \$14,003

The School District of Osceola County

Affective Development for Academic Success

Project Summary

The School District of Osceola County will collaborate with the University of Central Florida in a joint endeavor aimed at gifted curriculum redesign in grades 9-12. The intent of this collaborative proposal Affective Development for Academic Success, is the instructional redesign for the upgrade of affective curriculum to nurture socio-emotional development to impact cognitive growth and provide students a pathway to meet their academic potential. It will impact 18 teachers and approximately 716 gifted students. Expected outcomes include student achievement through instruction focusing on affective development. Participants will develop knowledge of gifted learners' cognitive and affective needs and

design curriculum to meet socio-emotional needs and promote academic growth. The project has not previously received Challenge Grant funds.

Awarded: \$22,998