

Project Prevent Newark - Abstract

Newark Board of Education (NBOE), the largest school district in New Jersey, is applying for the Project Prevent Grant. ***Project Prevent Newark*** is a five-year multi-tiered system of supports that create culturally responsive learning environments, build the social emotional learning capacity of teachers and students and increase mental health counseling services for students to ensure students are equipped with the tools to deal with trauma and break the cycle of violence prevalent in Newark communities. Each year, cohorts of schools will be added to the project. By Year 3, the project will impact 9,000 students in its pilot schools. In Years 4 and 5, the number of students impacted will significantly increase through the expansion of program activities to two additional sets of dissemination schools.

NBOE is applying under both Competitive Preference Priorities. It will meet **Competitive Preference Priority 1** by collaborating with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC) to provide school-based counseling services. It will meet **Competitive Preference Priority 2** by implementing the Yale RULER program to build student emotional intelligence and develop the skills that students need to be informed, thoughtful, and productive individuals.

Project Prevent Newark objectives include: (1) providing school-based counseling to assist students coping with trauma, (2) providing professional development to school personnel so they are equipped with SEL and behavioral supports to help address the effects of community and school violence (3) implementing an evidence-based school-wide SEL curriculum with conflict resolution and culturally-responsive learning strategies that promote a safer and improved school environment, and (4) improving the quality of family engagement with community-based organizations. Ultimately, NBOE hopes to increase the emotional intelligence of the entire Newark community to help decrease violent behaviors in its communities.