

The *Gear Up for Success* project is a highly successful, research-based approach to sustain reform to meet the needs of 3,436 students in five schools; including 1,572 students in two of the lowest performing schools in Florida. It meshes the strong curriculum foundations of STEM, personalized learning, supports such as Readers' Workshop, and IB in an existing elementary STEM magnet, with an innovative enrollment process designed to attract and retain a diverse population of highly engaged students. This process considers multiple factors, including socio-economic status providing weighted enrollment priorities of neighborhoods. With partners such as Stanford University, Teaching Institute For Excellence In STEM, Florida Polytechnic University and Emergenetics, Polk County will transform these five schools into epicenters of learning and dramatic, sustained student academic and personal growth. Schools are committed to the challenging work of developing rigorous units of study, implementing innovative, STEM and technology-based projects and providing sustained, measurable personalized learning experiences for all students. Partnerships with nationally recognized experts such as Gregory & Denby will provide guidance through change management and essential elements of personalized learning. Jay McTighe will work with schools to create and implement robust assessments designed to backward map the highly engaging curriculum. To assure student success, time will become the variable and learning the constant. Students will have a myriad of supports such as online summer learning programs, Parent University to provide practical assistance to families and technological innovations such as Fab Labs/MakerSpaces, designed to support rich, varied learning experiences that do not end at the school doors. This grant is a community effort, designed to bring together all stakeholders around the focus of providing each student a top tier educational experience designed to create a personalized approach to authentic learning, developing students who are academic scholars who do great good in this world.