



Education Analytics INC.

SPARK CENTER: SCALING AND VALIDATING A RESEARCH-BASED COST EFFECTIVE LITERACY INTERVENTION

ABSTRACT

SPARK is a research-based, cost-effective K–2 early reading intervention which includes one-on-one tutoring, family engagement, and after-school literacy sessions throughout the year. First piloted by the **Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM)** in 2005, the program has been proven to yield positive student outcomes in reading and absenteeism through two external evaluations which meet What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards without reservations.

Education Analytics (EA) proposes a Mid-Phase Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant which takes SPARK to scale across a tri-state network of 15 high-need, low-performing schools (**Absolute Priorities 1 & 4**) through a technology-enabled SPARK Center which is then tested for impact, replicability, and sustainability across new and diverse locales

The SPARK Center will partner with BGCGM, 4 Boys & Girls Club affiliates (in Wisconsin and South Carolina), and one LEA (in Alabama) to serve the 15 sites (over 50% of which are in rural communities) and 960 students across seven LEAs (Milwaukee Public Schools, WI; Steven’s Point, WI; Almond-Bancroft, WI; Sparta, WI; United District of Antigo, WI; Wisconsin Rapids, WI; Darlington, SC; Huntsville City, AL).

The SPARK Center and partners have the following 3 goals over the course of the project:

- **Impact:** Improve student outcomes by implementing SPARK with fidelity across sites
- **Scale:** Extend the reach of SPARK through a technology-enabled SPARK Center with the core functions of stakeholder engagement / communication and dissemination, implementation resources, and online real-time implementation data.
- **Evaluate and Disseminate:** Conduct an evaluation (which meets WWC standards without reservations) to validate the program’s impact in various settings and provides formative results that support continuous improvement. Sharing evaluation findings are integral to a comprehensive communication plan which raises awareness about the program.

Additional, the SPARK Center will achieve financial sustainability by the end of Year 4 through the provision of fee-for-service supports of this cost-effective program starting in Year 3.

