**Skills for Success Program**

**U.S. Department of Education**

 **Office of Innovation and Improvement**

CFDA Number 84.215H

**Purpose:** The Skills for Success Program supports Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and their partners in implementing, evaluating, and refining tools and approaches for developing the non-cognitive skills of middle-grades students (5th-8th grade) in order to increase student success. Grants provide funding for the implementation, evaluation, and refinement of existing tools and approaches (*e.g.,* digital games, growth mindset classroom activities, experiential learning opportunities) that integrate the development of students’ non-cognitive skills into classroom-level activities and existing strategies designed to improve schools.

An emerging body of research indicates that interventions that focus on enhancing student attributes, such as growth mindsets, resilience, self-control, and other social and behavioral skills, such as self-efficacy, can have a significant and lasting impact on student achievement and behavior. This research suggests that non-cognitive factors may play an important role in students’ academic, career, and life outcomes. For example, teaching students that their minds can grow and develop through routine and focused practice, as compared to referring to intelligence as a fixed trait like eye color, can increase students’ academic success. This competition is designed to build on that research by expanding our knowledge and understanding about the tools and approaches for promoting non-cognitive skills or how educators can improve their students’ non-cognitive skills as part of their broader efforts to enhance student educational outcomes, including efforts to improve academic achievement and attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism and exclusionary discipline.

**Average Size of Award:** $500,000; funding for the second and third years is subject to the availability of funds and the approval of continuation awards. Contingent on the availability of funds and the quality of applications, the U.S. Department of Education may make additional awards in FY 2016 or later years from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.

**Match**: None required.

**Expected Number of Awards**: 4-5

**Deadlines:** July 29, 2015

**Award Notification**: September 30, 2015

**Project Period**: 12-36 months