

THE NATIONAL SAM PROJECT'S I3 PROPOSAL

The National SAM Project office will be submitting an Invest In Innovation (I3) proposal to the U.S. Department of Education in May. The proposal will address the grant's Absolute Priority Area #1: Innovations that Support Effective Teachers and Principals. The SAM Project is a whole school change strategy designed to refocus the role of the principal from the school manager to instructional leader, resulting in an increased amount of time and effort spent on improving teaching and learning. This focus ultimately leads to improved outcomes for students.

SAMs is a proven effective school improvement model aimed at increasing the amount of time a school principal spends focused on instructional improvements. This data-driven process allows principals to reflect upon and utilize time-track data to examine their current use of time and to plan for expanded time spent on instructional leadership, while encouraging distributive leadership practices through the delegation of time-consuming management tasks to a School Administrative Manager or other members of the school leadership team.

Currently, more than 300 schools participate in the National SAM Project, which involves districts, universities and state education agencies in California, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York and Texas. The focus of the National SAM Project proposal will be on sustaining existing SAM sites, expanding within existing SAM districts and partner states, and exploring the expansion of the SAM's model to other states. The model will be examined in urban, suburban and rural districts, with the ultimate goal of raising student achievement in a variety of settings. Specifically, resources set aside from this award will improve conditions for school leaders and will ultimately lead to improved outcomes for all children.

To date, the National SAM Project has leveraged the positive evaluation results completed by Policy Studies Associates and the support of the Wallace Foundation to scale its effective model to large number of schools. The five year Invest in Innovation (i3) grant will provide the opportunity for the National SAM Project to build the infrastructure to support and expand existing sites; to expand the evaluation component to include a wider variety of settings and a more focused examination of student outcomes; and to expand the professional development and coaching needs of the partners to specifically address their unique needs. Award notification is expected in Sept. 2010.