

## Abstract

The Newark Board of Education (NBOE), the largest school district in New Jersey, is applying for the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant. *Supportive Schools Newark* is a partnership between the NBOE and Fairleigh Dickinson University-Metro Campus (FDU) to create a pipeline of school psychologists into high needs schools and increase capacity to effectively address the needs of youth who have experienced trauma. Graduate students from FDU will complete practicum and internship requirements in one of six demonstration K-8 schools, impacting approximately 4,300 students. The goals of *Supportive Schools Newark* are: (1) to significantly increase the number of school psychology graduate trainees who are well-prepared to provide mental health services in high needs schools and pursue employment in such schools following graduation through high-quality practicum and internship training opportunities and (2) to increase the capacity of the NBOE to effectively educate students who have been impacted by trauma and/or traumatic stress by establishing six demonstration schools. These schools will serve as models for the district in the implementation of trauma-informed care and tiered systems of mental health support.

The NBOE is applying under both Competitive Preference Priorities. The project will meet **Competitive Preference Priority 1** by implementing an evidence-based intervention, RULER, designed to help students recognize, understand, express, and regulate emotion. Also, it will meet **Competitive Preference Priority 2** by creating trauma-informed schools in which strong, positive relationships foster emotional safety and empowerment for all members of the school community. Ultimately, *Supportive Schools Newark* will make a significant contribution to the community of Newark by creating a pipeline to enhance mental health supports and an increased sensitivity to trauma in schools that will lead to positive social and academic behaviors in students.