

On April 15, 2013, Board Member Debra Robinson asked the following question regarding Board Agenda Item: AC 1 - Florida State University Subcontract R01552 - Amendment #1

**QUESTION:**

If the data shows that it accelerates student achievement, why do we need to continue studying it? Was it a requirement of another grant?

**RESPONSE:**

The mission of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is to provide rigorous and relevant evidence to guide educational practice. IES is committed to identifying what works, what doesn't work and why; thereby improving educational outcomes for all students.

This is not a requirement from another grant. This is the last step in the Federal Department of Education process to determine if an intervention has enough evidence to be recommended nationally as an intervention.

To get to this step, an intervention, such as SSS, must already have shown positive effects. The two things that make this study different from the previous SSS studies are: 1) this study looks at which variables are contributing to the achievement score gains in reading and math. In other words, this study is trying to determine how the SSS program works in helping students achieve higher test scores. These intermediate variables include student self-regulation of emotions, attention and motivation, positive classroom climate and peer support of learning, and student use of the specific SSS learning strategies taught in the SSS program. 2) The second difference is that this is the first SSS study to look at the importance of teacher training.

These two new questions represent critically important areas of research that will help educators support further student gains in achievement.

The IES-Student Success Skills (SSS) Research Project is a four (4) year grant that shares in this mission. Five published research studies on Student Success skills indicate that students realize academic and social-emotional benefits as the result of participation in SSS lessons. In addition, a National Panel for Evidence Based School Counseling finds strong evidence of effectiveness with the SSS program. The current IES-Student Success Skills research project is the gold standard for educational research.

The current (2012-2013) year focused on training and implementation of curriculum in grade 5 classrooms at 14 elementary schools. Data collection occurred in grade 5 classrooms at 29 elementary schools. These grade 5 students will be monitored in grade 6 to measure the persistence of the achievement and social-emotional benefit.

In year 3 of the project (2013-2014) the remaining 15 schools will receive training and materials to implement the SSS curriculum. In addition, attendance, grades and FCAT scores will be monitored for the students who received the SSS curriculum during the 2012-2013 school year.

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*Frieda Proctor, CAP*  
*Office of the Chief Academic Officer*  
*Palm Beach County School District*  
[561-649-6888](tel:561-649-6888) fax [561-434-8571](tel:561-434-8571)  
[frieda.proctor@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:frieda.proctor@palmbeachschools.org)