NCHS Resilient Youth Initiative

proven programs to support social-emotional learning & substance use prevention

EVALUATION PLAN

NCHS is pleased to introduce you to our evaluation partner, RTI International, a nonprofit research institute. With your help, RTI will assess the impact of the Resilient Youth Initiative on students' lives and on school climate. Toward that aim, RTI will:

- develop a student survey and a survey of implementation staff,
- visit a sample of classrooms throughout the implementation phase,
- and compile student-level administrative data.

The evaluation responsibilities of RTI and of grantees during the Resilient Youth Initiative Implementation Grant phase are outlined below. These mandatory activities will result in summary evaluation reports across the entire initiative, as well as individual, grantee-level reports. In 2021, grantees will receive summary data from the student surveys, and in 2022, grantees will receive a basic, graphical summary report. Schools and corporations can use these data *as they choose* to fine-tune their program implementation, assess the costs and benefits of the selected programs, and when applicable, build a local case to sustain the programs into the future.

STUDENT SURVEY

The Resilient Youth Initiative will utilize RTI's web-based ALEXSA-R student survey, the only child-report assessment of risk factors for substance use and behavior problems in this innovative format: validated for grades 2–12, ALEXSA-R uses an illustration-based, audio computer-assisted, self-interview format. The survey is engaging and easily completed by both younger and older children. Surveys will be administered by schools in the fall of 2019, spring of 2021, and spring of 2022. See the ALEXSA-R Field Manual for more detailed instructions on survey administration.

RTI

- Provide in-person launch training, web-based ongoing training, and technical support
- Contact grantees to determine which research approvals and consents are locally required
- Maintain rosters of student school and survey IDs
- For survey administration, provide grantees with a survey ID number for each student
- Help to obtain loaner computers for any school without web-enabled devices
- Track any changes in outcomes following the launch of the programs and compare outcomes among students who received different levels of exposure to the programs

Grantees

- Administer the ALEXSA-R student survey
- Provide RTI basic school-level information
- *Obtain student assent or parental consents, if needed*
- *Maintain parental consent rosters, if needed*

IMPLEMENTER SURVEY

This brief, confidential web-based survey for all program implementers will aim to learn about progress in program implementation, challenges to implementation, and supports for implementation. The survey will be conducted in the spring of 2020 and in the last year of implementation, spring of 2022.

RTI

- Email survey links to program implementers
- Summarize findings at the aggregate school level

Grantees

- Provide RTI with a list of names and email addresses for staff implementing the program in each RYI school
- Assist with program implementer completion of the survey

CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS

RTI will observe a sample of program sessions in the spring of 2020 and spring of 2021 for content/model, implementer skill, participant engagement, and supports and barriers to session implementation.

RTI

- Schedule observations with grantees
- Engage trained observers to visit class implementation sessions and complete session observation forms

Grantees

- Schedule classroom visits with RTI

STUDENT-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

In the spring of 2021 and 2022, grantees will share student-level administrative data, when available, on school absences, grades, standardized test scores, grade retention, disciplinary actions, and school drop-outs for the two years prior to program implementation through the 2021-2022 academic year.

RTI

- Request student-level administrative data from grantees
- Use administrative data to analyze changes in student-level outcomes related to attendance, behavior, and academic achievement

Grantees

- Work with RTI to share available student-level administrative data

GRANT PROGRESS

NCHS will request annual or biannual progress updates from grantees, such as the number of students engaged, number of sessions conducted, changes and challenges, and annual expenditures.