Research from the National Center for Research on Gifted Education shows that gifted children in poverty and minority groups that demonstrate comparable levels of achievement and aptitude as their peers are 250% less likely to be identified for, and in, gifted and talented programs.
Supporting and Promoting Advanced Readiness in Kids
Principal Investigator: Dr. Catherine Little
Duration 2014-2019
This project is supported under the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Grant Program, PR/Award Number S206A140017, as administered by the OESE, U.S. Department of Education.

Project SPARK: Supporting and Promoting Advanced Readiness in Kids

- Application/scaling up of the Young Scholars Model in 4 Connecticut school districts over 5 years (2014-2019)
- Focus on early awareness, identification, and intervention to support high potential
- Emphasis at grades K-2 in schools with high populations from underserved groups
Project SPARK Goals

- **Goal 1:** To increase the rate of identification of and services to students from underrepresented groups in gifted programs.
- **Goal 2:** To promote achievement of high-potential students from underrepresented groups, thereby reducing the excellence gap.
- **Goal 3:** To increase student readiness for gifted program participation through engagement in challenging curriculum and cluster grouping for instruction.
- **Goal 4:** To promote professional practice that will support the identification and development of emergent talent.
- **Goal 5:** To disseminate results of the project and resources for replication.
### Summer Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did not attend:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No growth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attended:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase in math achievement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Academic Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison Group:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.30 points per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Group:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.59 points per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Students from Low-Income Backgrounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No difference!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Summer programming helped close the gap |

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**Implications**

- Value of intervention in **out-of-school** time setting focused on advanced learner needs
- Potential of added value for students from **low-income backgrounds**
- Importance of **professional supports** for teachers – summer programming may not be sufficient to maintain gains

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Principal Investigator: Dr. Ann Robinson
Duration 2014-2019
This project is supported under the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Grant Program, PR/Award Number S206A140006, as administered by the OESE, U.S. Department of Education.

STEM Starters+

- Scaling up of previous Javits demonstration grant
- Focus on advanced curriculum opportunities and teacher professional development
- Emphasis at grades 1-5 in schools with high populations from underserved groups
Project SPARK Goals

- **Goal 1**: To **scale up** Stem Starters model.
- **Goal 2**: To increase the **nomination, identification, and participation of students from underrepresented populations to g/t programs and services**.
- **Goal 3**: To increase **teacher content knowledge, skills, and efficacy in teaching science and engineering design**.
- **Goal 4**: To increase **student learning gains and engagement** in science content, process skills, and engineering design.
- **Goal 5**: To **conduct research** on short-term and longitudinal student and educator gains.

**Take-Aways**

- Increasing teacher professional development opportunities
- Increasing student opportunities
  - Challenging curriculum
  - Summer programming
- Increasing use of research-based practices
  - Cluster grouping
  - Acceleration
- Increasing identification of and services to students from traditionally underserved populations