

**RAND Corporation/Jackson Public Schools/JSU-MURC
Research Initiative**

**“Developing Knowledge About What Works to Make Schools Safe: Implementation and
Evaluation of Tools for Life (TFL) in Jackson Public School District in Mississippi”**



This Project will determine whether the “Tools for Life (TFL)” intervention, when integrated into existing school practices with fidelity, can positively affect school climate and safety in Jackson (Mississippi) Public School District. The research project will be conducted over a period of two years beginning January 01, 2016.

The Mississippi Urban Research Center (JSU/MURC) will perform the following activities in support of the “Tools for Life (TFL)” intervention:

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- 3301. #primary data collection for RAND’s in-depth case studies in 12 purposefully selected treatment and control elementary and middle schools to document variation in implementation of “Tools for Life” among treatment schools and to contextualize findings from the effectiveness evaluation.
- Conduct individual interviews and collective focus group sessions with key school administrative, instructional, and support staff for the purpose of gathering information as to effective strategies for making schools safe.
- Conduct structured observations of open spaces, hallways, and classroom activities to observe methods and practices being used to facilitate and/or promote school safety. These structured observations will occur at two points in time during the academic school year (i.e., fall and spring semesters) over two academic years (2016-17 and 2017-18).
- Recruit, train, and supervise personnel needed to conduct data collection, interviews, focus groups, and structured observational activities.