

# Project CELLS: Western New York Collaboration for ELL Success

- Scholarships for pre-service and in-service ESOL certifications
- Professional development for content and ESOL teachers, counselors, administrators, faculty members
- **“Transitions” curriculum for Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)** to understand the U.S. educational system
- Partnered with refugee program, Roc International Academy (RIA)

U.S. Department of Education

National Professional Development Grant 2012-2017



UNIVERSITY of  
ROCHESTER

# Curriculum Successes

- SIFE frequently don't know about the U.S. educational system, especially graduation requirements and post-HS opportunities.
- Two units developed and field tested; three more in planning/preparation

## **Example: Unit 1: Places and Ways We Learn**

- Lesson 1: Learning Experiences around the World
- Lesson 2: My Learning Experiences
- Lesson 3: Comparing Schools
- Lesson 4: Describing Schools



# Curriculum Challenges

- Avoiding reinventing the wheel (by finding existing resources to use or **adapt**)
- Specifying language goals and objectives for second-year refugee students: older students with low language and literacy proficiency levels
- Getting useful feedback from field testers
- Time to develop units!

# Help needed from DOE

- Platform to distribute Transitions curriculum units to people interested in field testing and possibly using them when finalized
- Clearinghouse of resources for refugee/SIFE students—to draw on and to contribute to

