

South Texas School Joins National Science Foundation-Backed Study on Groundbreaking Mental Health Companion for Kids

Gillett Middle School Will Enhance Early Detection Tool for Childhood Depression, Anxiety and Behavioral Needs

KINGSVILLE, TEXAS, USA, December 28, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Gillett Middle School in Kingsville Independent School District in Kingsville, Texas has been selected to participate in a study activated by the [National Science Foundation](#) on reThinkIt!, an AI-driven, web-based platform resolving students' worsening mental health challenges.

Around 300 middle school students at Gillett will use reThinkIt! from September 2022 to January 2023 for needs ranging from anxiety and depression to discipline and behavior issues. Teachers and counselors will help guide students to use reThinkIt! via a classroom mobile device and interact with the built-in intelligent mental healthcare chatbot whenever students need guidance or to share what is on their minds.

Students' confidential participation will assist the platform's algorithm in tailoring improved responses to adolescents using reThinkIt!, which digitally triages students' expressed concerns and then alerts educators to trends in their students' mental wellness.

The Washington Post recently updated its findings on the student mental health crisis, and it is much larger than most people realized. The article reported "The need is real, the need is dire," said Alberto Carvalho, superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, who recalled hearing just that day from the district's mental health partners that calls about suicidal thoughts had quadrupled. "We're living through historically unprecedented times," he said.

"Gillett Middle School in Kingsville ISD is actively addressing this crisis by partnering with OneSeventeen Media and reThinkIt! to support students who desperately need effective, accessible mental healthcare," shared Kingsville ISD Superintendent Dr. Cissy Reynolds-Perez.

Approved by the Institutional Review Board, the study's main purpose is to further improve reThinkIt!'s ability to determine the nature and severity of a child's mental health needs through real-time, early detection. Bridging the gap between kids in need and the adults who care about

them while minimizing the strain on schools' limited resources, reThinkIt! has already prevented a potential school shooting and multiple youth suicides.

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About America's Seed Fund: America's Seed Fund powered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) awards \$200 million annually to startups and small businesses, transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact. Startups working across almost all areas of science and technology can receive up to \$2 million in non-dilutive funds to support research and development (R&D), helping de-risk technology for commercial success. America's Seed Fund is congressionally mandated through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The NSF is an independent federal agency with a budget of about \$8.8 billion that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. For more information, visit seedfund.nsf.gov.

About OneSeventeen Media, PBC: OneSeventeen Media leads the charge in developing digital mental healthcare solutions for K12 schools that help educators improve outcome-based social emotional and mental health results. reThinkIt! for School™, their proven telemental health platform, helps make students emotionally healthier. Powered by machine learning, reThinkIt! leverages its unique combination of kid-smart, chatbot-driven conversations and a real-time self-guided Emotional Digital Triage™ Assessment paired with optional access to licensed live chat therapists and certified counselors. reThinkIt! automates the time-intensive parts of the mental health evaluation and triage process that bog down the more important – and essential – high-touch, people parts of nurturing healthy students and cultivating overall school wellness. OneSeventeen Media is headquartered in Austin, Texas and is funded in part by social impact investment from Southwest Angel Network (SWAN), Health Wildcatters, National Science Foundation and United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. Learn more at www.oneseventeenmedia.com.

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