

# IES Funding Competitions for FY2008



# Institute of Education Sciences

- Established under 2002 Reform Act
- IES Director Russ Whitehurst appointed for 6-year term
- First Year of IES research funding: FY2004
  
- Four IES Research Centers
  - National Center for Education Research (NCER)
    - Research and training
  - National Center for Special Education Research (NCSE)
    - Research and training
  - National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
    - Federal collection & analysis of education-related data
  - National Center for Education Evaluation & Regional Assistance
    - Large scale evaluations (i.e., Reading First, Title I)

# Evolution of IES Research Funding

- Current IES funding structure instituted in 2005 -- now in third year
- Adjustments Observed To Date:
  - Year 1: first intervention-focused competitions
  - Year 2: increasing specificity of proposal contents and research design
  - Year 2 Consolidation of submission deadlines to 2 times per year (July and November)
  - Each Year: Increased number of program topics
  - Each Year Goal structure for research activities tweaked

# Conditions Researched: Curriculum and Instruction

- Reading and Writing (K-12)
- Struggling Adolescent & Adult Readers & Writers
- Mathematics & Science Education
- Preschool Curriculum Evaluation
- Social and Character Development
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- Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education

# Conditions Researched: Quality of the Education Workforce

- Teacher Quality: Reading & Writing
- Teacher Quality: Math & Science
- Education Leadership

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- Quality of Teachers and Other Service Providers for Students with Disabilities

# Conditions Researched: Administration, Systems and Policy

- Education Policy, Finance and Systems
- High School Reform

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- NAEP Secondary Analysis Research Program

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- Individualized Education Programs and Individualized Family Service Plans

# Conditions Researched: Multiple Conditions

- Cognition and Student Learning
- Early Childhood Programs and Policies
- High School Reform
- Educational Technology
- Postsecondary Education

# New Program Topics

- Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning
  - Develop assessment tools and strategies for improving social skills and behaviors to support school activities in K-12
- Early Childhood Programs and Policies
  - Improve school readiness skills by identifying, developing, and evaluating curriculum and assessment tools

# New Program Topics, Cont'd.

- Education Technology
  - Research on educational technology tools designed to support instruction in reading, writing, math or science
  - Develop, evaluate tools
  - Develop instructional assessment tools using technology
  - Provide teacher professional development

# New Program Topics, Cont'd.

- Related Services Special Education Research
  - ID, develop and evaluate effectiveness of related practices, programs and delivery systems
  - Develop and validate assessment tools

# Age and Grade Level Foci

Pre-K and K

Elementary

Middle school

High School

Post-secondary

Vocational

Adult

Infants with disabilities

# Research Outcomes Focus

- Readiness for Schooling
  - Pre-reading, pre-writing, early mathematics and science knowledge and skills, and social development
- Academic Outcomes
  - Reading, writing, math, science
- Student Behavior, Social Interactions Within Schools
  - What affects learning of academic content
- Skills that Support Independent Living
  - Students with significant disabilities
- Educational Attainment
  - HS graduation, post-secondary enrollment & completion

IES Standards: The “What Works Clearinghouse”

# Major Steps to IES Research Funding

## 1. Choose a Program and Topic

### A. Education Research

11 topics / 2 annual competitions each

### B. Special Education Research

9 topics / 1 annual competition each

### C. Training Programs

1. Predoctoral Research Training
2. Postdoctoral Ed Research Training
3. Postdoctoral Special Ed Research Training

# Major Steps, cont'd.

## 2. Choose a Goal

Goal One:	Identification Projects
Goal Two:	Development Projects
Goal Three:	Efficacy and Replication Trials
Goal Four:	Scale-up Evaluations
Goal Five:	Measurement Tools

## 3. Next Application Date - November 1, 2007

# Goals

## **GOAL ONE:** ID Existing Programs & Practices

- Impact on student outcomes
- Factors that may mediate or moderate effects

## **GOAL TWO:** Develop Programs & Practices

- Preliminary relations between implementation and intended education outcomes

## **GOAL THREE:** Efficacy of Fully Developed Programs & Practices

- Correlation between implementation of intervention and education outcomes

*OR*

- Widely used programs that are not yet rigorously evaluated

## **GOAL FOUR:** Effectiveness When Implemented at Scale

## **GOAL FIVE:** Data and Measurement Systems and Tools

# Funding & Research Development

*Across Progressions:*

- Develop measurement tools (Goal 5)

*Early:*

- Identify programs & practices (Goal 1)

*Middle:*

- Gather preliminary data on efficacy (Goal 2)
- Efficacy of fully developed programs (Goal 3)

*Late:*

- Effectiveness when deployed at scale (Goal 4)

# New Features

- Goal 1: Identification stage now funds descriptive data collection, longitudinal studies!
- Goal 2 to Goal 3: Better separation between intervention development and demonstrations of efficacy
- IES advises written agreements among key collaborators regarding roles, responsibilities, access to data, publication rights, decision-making procedures

# Collaborating with Schools

- OSURR can provide a support letter for the proposal
- OSURR can help identify appropriate schools
  - indicated district needs
  - other demographic or assessment data
- OSURR can assist with obtaining school support letters
  - typically from the district level administration

# Office of School - University Research Relations

- School district faculty and administrators are very busy professionals
- University researchers are guests in the school building
- Target Deadline for IES proposals including letters from Champaign – Urbana and Decatur: Monday, October 8, 2007

# Collaborating with Schools

- Research Topics
  - school district staff regularly provide a [list of topics](#) where they would find research most helpful
- OSURR Support
  - obtaining school support letters – typically from the district level administration – to be submitted with your proposal
  - identify appropriate schools for placing projects

# Human Subjects & School Research

- For conducting research with preschool, elementary, middle, or high school students, their parents and families, teachers, or other school personnel ALL FACULTY AND STUDENT projects need human subjects approval by completing
  - [IRB-1](#)
  - [School Research Form](#)
- *These may not be formally required as part of the funders' submission but are still recommended as part of your planning*

# Requests for Collaboration and Support Letters

Forms needed from researcher:

1. Proposed Research Project Description
2. Draft School Support Letter  
(templates available from OSURR)

# Next Steps for Submission

- Letter of Intent Due:
  - **Thursday September 6, 2007**
  - Contact Bureau before Labor Day to arrange submission
  
- LOI Content Info:
  - Ed Research RFP: p. 71
  - Special Ed Research RFP: p. 52

