Update on Grants Policies and Procedures at the Institute of Education Sciences

Elizabeth R. Albro, Ph.D.
Acting Commissioner
National Center for Education Research
Organizational Structure

Office of the Director

Standards & Review Office

- National Center for Education Research
- National Center for Education Statistics

National Board for Education Sciences

- National Center for Education Evaluation
- National Center for Special Education Research
Legislative Mission of IES Drives Priorities

• Describe the condition and progress of education in the United States

• Identify education practices that improve academic achievement and access to education opportunities

• Evaluate the effectiveness of Federal and other education programs
National Board for Education Sciences

The National Board for Education Sciences consists of 15 voting members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The following serve as nonvoting ex officio members: The Director of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), each of the four Commissioners of the National Education Centers, the Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Director of the Census, the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, and the Director of the National Science Foundation.

The duties of the National Board for Education Sciences are to:

- Advise and consult with the Director on the policies of the Institute;
- Consider and approve priorities proposed by the Director to guide the work of the Institute;
- Review and approve procedures for technical and scientific peer review of the activities of the Institute;
- Advise the Director on activities to be supported by the Institute, including the general areas of research to be carried out by the National Center for Education Research;
- Present the Director with recommendations for strengthening education research and the funding of the Institute;
- Advise the Director on the funding of applications after the completion of peer review;
- Review and regularly evaluate the work of the Institute to ensure that its research, development, evaluation, and statistical analyses are consistent with the standards set out in the Education Sciences Reform Act;
- Advise the Director on ensuring that activities of the Institute are objective, secular, neutral, and nonideological and free of partisan influence and racial, cultural, gender, or regional bias;
- Solicit advice and information from the field regarding priorities for the Institute;
- Advise the Director on opportunities for the participation in, and the advancement of, women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in education research, statistics, and evaluation activities of the Institute;
- Recommend to the Director ways to enhance strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts among other federal and state research agencies; and
- Recommend to the Director individuals to serve as Commissioners of the National Education Centers.

The Executive Director of the National Board for Education Sciences, Monica Herk, was appointed by the Board. Any additional staff are appointed or assigned by the Director of the Institute, in consultation with the Chair and the Executive Director of the Board.

The National Board for Education Sciences also approves research priorities for the Institute of Education Sciences.

For further information about the Board, please contact Monica Herk.
Partnerships with stakeholder groups

- The Institute will encourage researchers to develop partnerships with stakeholder groups to advance the relevance of the Institute's work, the accessibility of its reports, and the usability of its findings for the day-to-day work of education practitioners and policymakers.
Methodological priorities

• maintain rigorous scientific standards for the technical quality of its research....activities
• ensure that the methods applied are appropriate to the questions asked and the results are valid and reliable
• include a variety of research and statistical methods
Missions of the Research Centers

• NCER
  – supports rigorous research that addresses the nation’s most pressing education needs, from early childhood to adult education

• NCSER
  – sponsors a rigorous and comprehensive program of special education research designed to expand the knowledge and understanding of infants, toddlers, and students with or at risk for disabilities from birth through high school
President’s FY 2013 Budget Request

• An increase of $12.5 million over 2012 level for our Research, Development, and Dissemination line.

• Enable IES/NCER to award up to $30 million in new research and development grants in early learning and elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education.

• $49.9 million for Research in Special Education to support new and ongoing projects.
WHAT WERE THE FY 2013 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND WHAT DO WE ANTICIPATE FOR FY 2014?
IES Grant Making Timeline

- Early March: Requests for Applications are released
- Typical timeline after RFA release

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June Deadline</th>
<th>September Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Intent Due</td>
<td>mid-April</td>
<td>mid-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications Due</td>
<td>mid-to-late June</td>
<td>mid-to-late September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Review Meeting</td>
<td>late October</td>
<td>late February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Announced</td>
<td>early March</td>
<td>early July</td>
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Learning from Recent Advances in Measuring Teacher Effectiveness
On August 9, 2012, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) convened a meeting of researchers and U.S. Department of Education (ED) and IES staff to discuss recent advances in measuring teacher effectiveness.  » more info

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Archive  Calendar of Events  XML RSS
Implementing Plain Language

• All FY 2013 RFAs, as well as our Grants Submission Guide, were revised following Plain Language guidelines: http://www.plainlanguage.gov/.

• We also changed our Funding Opportunities landing page following the same principles.

• We will continue to follow those principles as we prepare the FY2014 RFAs.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Steps to Applying for IES Grants

1. **Identify** a current funding opportunity that matches your research interests and identify the relevant Letter of Intent and application deadlines.

2. **Register** for a funding opportunities webinar to learn more about the application process and choosing an appropriate funding opportunity.

3. **Download** the appropriate Request for Application, application submission guide, and application package.

4. **Submit** your (optional but strongly encouraged) Letter of Intent.

5. **Submit** your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline.

Note: See "Other IES Funding Opportunities" for IES grants that follow different application procedures.

Funding Opportunities for Research and Research Training

The Institute of Education Sciences’ overarching priority is research that contributes to school readiness and improved academic achievement for all students, and particularly for those whose education prospects are hindered by inadequate education services and conditions associated with poverty, race/ethnicity, limited English proficiency, disability, and family circumstance. Please read an Overview of IES Research and Research Training Grant Programs for background information before proceeding. Please note that not all of IES' research and research training programs are offered each funding year and that the requirements for research and research training programs may change from one year to the next.

The FY 2012 Research and Research Training competitions are now closed. For FY 2013, the Institute supports the following research and research training programs (announced in the Federal Register on March 6, 2012). Additional Requests for Applications (RFAs) may be released for FY 2013. Please revisit this page and sign up for the IES Newsflash to be notified of new RFAs.

Research Programs

- Education Research Programs (84.305A)
## FY 2013 Research Competitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CFDA Number</th>
<th>Program Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84.305A</td>
<td>Education Research Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.324A</td>
<td>Special Education Research Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.305D</td>
<td>Statistical and Research Methodology in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.324D</td>
<td>Accelerating the Academic Achievement of Students with Learning Disabilities Research Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.305E</td>
<td>Evaluation of State and Local Programs and Policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>84.305H</td>
<td>Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research</td>
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## Anticipated FY 2014 Competitions

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<td>84.305D</td>
<td>Statistical and Research Methodology in Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>84.305?</td>
<td>Partnerships and Collaborations Focused on Problems of Practice or Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continuous Improvement in Education Research</td>
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<td>Evaluation of State and Local Programs and Policies</td>
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<td>CFDA Number</td>
<td>Program Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>84.305B</td>
<td>Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Postdoctoral Research Training Program in the Education Sciences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Researcher and Policymaker Training Program in the Education Sciences</td>
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<td>84.324B</td>
<td>Research Training Program in Special Education</td>
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<td>Early Career Development and Mentoring</td>
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<td>Research Training Program in Special Education</td>
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<td></td>
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A Basic Requirement

• Each application to the education research or special education research program must address one topic and one research goal.
FY 2013 Education Research Topics (84.305A)

• Cognition and Student Learning
• Early Learning Programs and Policies
• Education Technology
• Effective Teachers & Effective Teaching
• English Learners
• Improving Education Systems: Policies, Organization, Management, and Leadership
• Mathematics and Science Education
• Postsecondary and Adult Education
• Reading and Writing
• Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning
FY 2013 Special Education Research Topics (84.324A)

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Cognition and Student Learning in Special Education
- Early Intervention and Early Learning in Special Education
- Families of Children with Disabilities
- Mathematics and Science Education
- Professional Development for Teachers and Related Service Providers
- Reading, Writing, and Language Development
- Social and Behavioral Outcomes to Support Learning
- Special Education Policy, Finance, and Systems
- Technology for Special Education
- Transition Outcomes for Secondary Students with Disabilities
FY 2013 Research Goals

• Exploration
• Development & Innovation
• Efficacy & Replication
• Effectiveness
• Measurement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Maximum (direct + indirect)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exploration</td>
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<tr>
<td>With secondary data</td>
<td>2 years, $700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With primary data</td>
<td>4 years, $1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>4 years, $1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficacy &amp; Replication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up study</td>
<td>4 years, $3,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 years, $1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up study</td>
<td>5 years, $5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 years, $1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>4 years, $1,600,000</td>
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</table>
Additional FY 2013 Research and Research Training Programs
Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences (84.305B)

- Postdoctoral Research Training Program

Researcher & Policymaker Training Program in the Education Sciences
Researcher and Policymaker Training Program in the Education Sciences

• Researcher Training
  – To provide opportunities for current education researchers to maintain and upgrade their methodological skills

• Policymaker Training
  – To share evidence from rigorous education research with education practitioners and policymakers working on a specific program or policy

ies.ed.gov
Research Training Program in Special Education (84.324B)

• Early Career Development and Mentoring
  – Provides new investigators support to further develop methodological, content, and grant writing expertise needed to develop a strong line of research that includes federal funding
  – Requires identification of mentor at time of application
  – Requires a research plan and career development plan
• Research projects intended to expand and improve the methodological and statistical tools available for education researchers

• These tools will be used to improve the design of research studies, analysis of research data, and interpretation of research findings
• Support for rigorous evaluations of education programs or policies that are paid for and implemented by State or local education agencies

• Evaluations are to determine both the overall impact of the programs/policies and the impact across a variety of conditions
Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research (84.305H)

- Intended to support the partnering of researchers with State and local education agencies in the development of joint research projects
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Maximum Number of Years</th>
<th>Maximum Award (direct + indirect)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>305B Postdoc Training</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>$687,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>305B Researcher &amp; Policymaker Training</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324B Early Career</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324D A3</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>305D Stats/Methods</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>305E State/Local</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>305H Partnerships</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Competition in FY 2014

• A single RFA with three topics:
  – Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships
  – Continuous Improvement in Education Research
  – Evaluation of State and Local Programs and Policies

• We are currently seeking comments on the proposed new topic:
  – Continuous Improvement in Education Research
Highlights

Learning from Recent Advances in Measuring Teacher Effectiveness
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Continuous Improvement Research in Education
A new research program is being planned for Fiscal Year 2014. Click here to learn more and provide comments.
NOW THAT YOUR FACULTY HAVE DECIDED TO APPLY, WHAT’S NEXT?
• Program Officers are associated with competitions and/or topics
• Contact information is included at the end of each RFA
• Contact information is also available on each of the program pages on the IES website
Submit a Letter of Intent

• Letters of Intent (LOIs) are important, but not required
• LOIs are submitted electronically
• We encourage all researchers to submit LOIs
  – April 2013 for June applications
  – July 2013 for September applications
Application Due Dates

• Applications are accepted twice a year.
• For FY 2014, applications will be due:
  – June 2013, date TBD
  – September 2013, date TBD
• We do NOT accept late applications
• The authorized representative at your institution (not the PI) actually submits the grant to IES
Finding Application Packages

• All IES applications are submitted through Grants.gov.

• FY 2014 Application Packages will be available on www.grants.gov in mid-April.
Find. Apply. Succeed.

Grants.gov is your source to FIND and APPLY for federal grants. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is proud to be the managing partner for Grants.gov, an initiative that is having an unparalleled impact on the grant community. Learn more about Grants.gov and determine if you are eligible for grant opportunities offered on this site.

Grants.gov does not provide personal financial assistance. To learn where you may find personal help, check Government Benefits, Student Loans and Small Business Start-up Loans.

What’s New at Grants.gov

- New Opportunities This Week
- Grants.gov Contact Center scheduled closing
- Important CCR Update
- View Recovery Act Webinar for Nonprofits
- Verify if your Adobe Reader version is compatible with Grants.gov
Three Critical Documents for IES Grants

- Request for Applications
  - Currently available at [http://ies.ed.gov/funding](http://ies.ed.gov/funding)

- Grants.gov Application Submission Guide
  - Will be available at [http://ies.ed.gov/funding](http://ies.ed.gov/funding)

- Application Package
  - Will be available on [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

ies.ed.gov
Peer Review Process

• Applications are reviewed for compliance and responsiveness to the RFA
• Applications that are compliant and responsive are assigned to a review panel
• Two or three panel members conduct a primary review of each application
• At panel meeting, the most competitive applications are reviewed by full panel
Peer Reviewers Now Online

- Lists of research grant peer reviewers are now available online.
Resources for Researchers

• Visit links for faculty and researchers on IES website
• Review past webinars, and participate in future webinars for the FY 2014 competitions
RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHERS

Webinars
To view presentations for current and past research funding opportunities webinars, click here.

Methodological Resources
For methodological resources to assist in preparing an IES research grant application, click here.

Video Presentations
To view selected presentations, handouts, and videos from previous IES Research Conferences and Summer Research Training Institutes, click here.

Available Datasets and Tools
To learn more about datasets available to researchers, click here.

Peer Review Process
For additional information about the IES peer review process for research grants and reports, click here.

Data Sharing
For information about data sharing policy in IES Research Centers, click here.
For the guide to data sharing implementation in IES Research Centers, click here.

Public Access to Research
For information on IES’ policy regarding public access to research, click here.
For instructions on submitting final manuscripts to ERIC, click here.
IES Policy Re Public Access to Research

• Beginning in FY 2012, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) required its grantees to submit their peer-reviewed research publications to the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC).

• Posting for public accessibility through ERIC is strongly encouraged as soon as possible but must be within 12 months of the publisher's official date of final publication.
Links to ERIC are Included in project abstracts
IES Policy Re Data Sharing

• Beginning with FY 2013 awards, researchers applying for Goal Four Scale-Up Evaluation grants under competitions 84.305A for Education Research or 84.324A for Special Education Research are expected to include data sharing plans in their applications.
Help Us Help You and Your Faculty

• Read the Request for Applications carefully
• Call or e-mail IES Program Officers early in the process
• As time permits, IES program staff can review draft proposals and provide feedback

Don’t be afraid to contact us!
Notification Process

• All applicants will receive e-mail notification of the status of their application
• All applicants receive copies of reviewer comments via e-mail
• If you are not granted an award the first time, plan on resubmitting, and talk to your Program Officer
For Grantees

• Funds are distributed through the g5 system.
  – [http://www.g5.gov](http://www.g5.gov)

• IES Annual Reports are submitted using the federal Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) form through the g5 system.

• Grantees receive guidance from program officers, and IES holds twice annual webinars describing the new format.
For More Information

http://ies.ed.gov/funding

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