



Community for Advancing Discovery Research in Education

2017 DRK-12 Solicitation Webinar Q & A

Below are answers to questions not addressed during the recorded portions of the webinars. [View recordings](#) of the August 31 and September 11 DR K-12 Solicitation Webinars to hear additional questions and answers.

GENERAL

- **Will DR K-12 entertain EAGER proposals this fiscal year?** Yes.
- **Where can we see proposals that have been funded?** A searchable database of NSF funded project abstracts is available at <https://nsf.gov/awardsearch/>.
- **Does "new performer" mean the PI or the lead institution?** This refers to the institution.
- **What's the expected total funding level for the program this year?** This is uncertain given the current state of the federal budget. However, the current solicitation provides some estimates.

PROPOSAL TYPES

- **Are Exploratory proposals mainly literature reviews? How are they different from Synthesis studies?** [Here](#) is an example of an exploratory study.
- **Could you say a little bit more about the differences between Early and Late Stage Design & Development studies? For example:**
 - **Do you expect a smaller budget for Early Stage?** Not necessarily.
 - **How might the research questions differ?** Goals of Early Stage Design and Development Studies must include providing: a prototype or early version of the proposed STEM education innovation or approach, a clearly articulated theory of action that describes the innovation or approach's assumptions, central design features, anticipated effects these features elicit, and explanations that relate features to effects.

Goals of Late Stage Design and Development studies must include providing fully developed STEM education innovations or approaches that have evidence of feasibility and utility for practice completed products, ready for implementation by others who request them; and evidence of promise from field studies.

- **For the "Implementation and Improvement" type, If we have an already-developed model that meets the criteria for aligning with research, improving student learning gains, etc., could we apply for funds to scale the program further (implement it at additional sites), and use some of the funding for implementation, making sure that we also include a research study on the implementation? Or can this solicitation ONLY fund the research portion of that, but not provide actual implementation funding?** Funds can be used for implementation and research.

- **What is the anticipated scale of an impact study? For example:**
 - **Would one large school district be enough, or is the expected scale larger?** This will depend on the research questions, level of implementation (e.g., student, classroom, teacher, school), and the power analysis. The project would need to be designed to allow for unbiased estimate of treatment effects.
 - **Is scaling a previously-funded state-scale DRK-12 project to an evaluation at a national scale (with technology improvements) suitable for an Impact study?** Yes.

BUDGET

- **Are we allowed to build into the budget funds to hire additional people to implement the grant?** In general, yes.
- **Can we include the cost of a single audit into our budget?** No.

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

- **Are there exemplary samples of documents to view, such as a data management plan?** Generally, no.
- **How does the Research and Design agenda differ from (and/or overlap with) the External Evaluation Plan? Are there examples available?** Proposals that choose to include an external evaluation plan (this is not required) should be careful to make sure that it is not overly similar to the research plan. You should carefully describe the objectives that will be achieved by each portion of the project and they should be distinct from one another.
- **How brief should the letters of collaboration be? For example, is it sufficient for them to state: "If the proposal submitted by Dr. [insert the full name of the Principal Investigator] entitled [insert the proposal title] is selected for funding by NSF, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal."** Yes, this is sufficient.
- **Can the goals of the proposal be included in the project summary?** Yes.

PROJECT SCOPE/FOCUS

- **Is there preference given to a single grade vs. a span of grades?** This will depend on the focus of the study. However, proposing R&D work across too many grades can be difficult to do well. Generally, it is more advisable to try to address an issue in one or two grade levels.

Have other questions? Contact an NSF Program Director

See our [contact list](#) of NSF program directors (including names, phone numbers, and areas of expertise).



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