

Docket ID ED-2023-IES-0182-0001

November 13, 2023

Institute of Education Sciences  
National Center for Education Research  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-7240

Dear Director Schneider,

Committee for Children welcomes the Institute of Education Sciences's solicitation of comments on the potential "From Seedlings to Scale" program and we are encouraged to see IES's efforts to support advanced education research and development to create scalable solutions for all learners.

Our responses to the questions posed in the request for information are as follows:

**(1) Are the focus areas and cross cutting topics described well suited to advanced development R&D?**

We commend the inclusion of "creating new techniques and approaches to help educators and learners implement strategies to support behavior and emotion regulation" as a specified focus area. While [research](#) shows that supporting behavior and emotion regulation is an essential component of learning, advanced research and development is needed to further investigate strategies with rapid testing and continuous improvement to develop into high-quality, scalable solutions—a difficult undertaking in the complex education sector using traditional research and development pathways.

With respect to the list of potential cross-cutting areas, we invite further definition or clarification of the topics to not leave these open to a varied interpretation.

**(2) (b) How can we ensure community engagement and input?**

We recommend that community engagement and input be a requirement of proposals for and participation in the Seedlings to Scale program. Creating scalable solutions that can benefit all learners depends on obtaining diverse viewpoints that strengthen research as well as provide insights into the solution's market fit and potential implementation barriers.

**(3) With a focus on developing quick turnaround, high reward and scalable solutions, what would you propose are the core activities and/or benchmarks for success for a project in each of the phases? What examples can you provide around past successes in social science domains or specifically related to education R&D?**

We recommend core activities include the ability to quickly collect and interpret data as well as to translate those insights carefully and continuously into thoughtful improvements to strategies or solutions to ensure a quick turn-around of high-reward and scalable solutions. Proposals should be able to demonstrate data-driven processes for rapid iteration and development of

solutions and not have to rely on employing traditional evaluation methods that can be time consuming.

- (5) As a part of this effort, IES may seek support in establishing a technical working group (TWG) to inform the activities that will guide research teams for the S2S competition. If we were to establish a TWG related to the S2S competition, what kind of expertise would you propose is essential to a TWG in this area? Are there specific organizations or individuals that you suggest be included in the TWG?**

We suggest IES consider including organizations that have experience in conducting rapid, iterative testing as well as organizations that have been able to scale programs. Additionally, we suggest including organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to being research-based but also understand the importance of being adaptive to the market as those two approaches don't always align but both considerations are core to the focus of this program and its potential impact. Organizations and entities that have expertise in employing innovative research methodologies to conduct iterative prototyping and testing would also be beneficial to include in the technical working group. We further encourage the technical working group to be diverse and have expertise in addressing equity in education.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Committee for Children