

# THE POLICY & RESEARCH GROUP

## EDUCATION INNOVATION AND RESEARCH GRANT



The Department of Education's *Education Innovation and Research* (EIR) grant program was created to support the exploration of innovative approaches to challenges facing K-12 education. Operated by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, the goal of the EIR program is to provide funding to enable eligible applicants to create, develop, implement, replicate, or scale-up innovations which are evidence-based and field-initiated. The funding also aims to rigorously evaluate these innovations and make findings available to the public.

### *WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS DOES EIR SUPPORT?*

EIR supports projects that focus on improving academic achievement for high-needs students across K-12 grades. The Department does not define high-need students for the purpose of EIR and leaves it to applicants to identify those students consistent with their unique needs and circumstances.

### *WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AN EIR GRANT?*

Eligible applicants include local or state educational agencies, The Bureau of Indian Education, a consortium of educational agencies, or a nonprofit organization, including institutes of higher education that have 501(c)(3) status.

### *WHAT KIND OF EVIDENCE IS NEEDED TO SUGGEST AN INNOVATION IS EVIDENCE-BASED?*

Applicants must "demonstrate a rationale" for their project, which means that a key project component included in the logic model is informed by research or evaluation findings that suggest the project component is likely to improve outcomes. In other words, the research does not have to be about your specific program, but about components of your program.

### *IS AN EVALUATION REQUIRED?*

Yes, an independently-conducted rigorous evaluation that is designed to meet the *What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards* is required for any proposed project. Rigorous evaluations are those that examine outcomes for a group of individuals who receive an intervention against those of a group of individuals who do not.

### *IS THERE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT AN EIR GRANT MUST SERVE?*

No, there is no minimum number of students required, but the scope and reach of the project should be clearly defined in the application; there are considerations for a minimum sample size for a rigorous evaluation.

### *HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PROGRAM IS READY FOR AN EIR GRANT?*

Awarded projects take place over five years. If a program is not yet ready to be rigorously evaluated right away, then grantees can use the first 1–2 years to finalize and pilot their program to prepare for the efficacy study. Successful applications will either demonstrate documentation of or provide a detailed plan for obtaining the following:

- An environmental scan that suggests that there is a need for this innovation
- Feedback indicating interested parties find it compelling and a good fit (feasible and acceptable)
- A clearly defined logic model and evidence to suggest that the program can be implemented with fidelity and quality
- Evidence to suggest that exposure to the program is likely to be associated with improvements in near-term outcomes
- Potential program partners who are on board for a rigorous evaluation
- Feedback indicating students, teachers, parents, and/or administrators are satisfied with programming

### *WHEN ARE 2024 APPLICATIONS DUE?*

The Department has not yet made public when they will release this year's request for proposal or the application due date. Based on past years, we expect the RPF to be released in late Spring (~May) and applications due at the end of Summer (~August).

**For more information about the EIR program, see the [FY 2024 Competition Page](#) on the Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's website.**

# THE POLICY & RESEARCH GROUP

## EDUCATION INNOVATION AND RESEARCH GRANT



The Policy & Research Group (PRG), established in 2004, is a small business conducting research and evaluation studies. PRG has conducted school-based evaluations in a variety of settings, including in urban, rural, and tribal communities, and elementary through high school. We have conducted evaluations in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

### *PRG'S EXPERIENCE WITH EIR (FORMERLY I3)*

#### EDUCATION INNOVATION AND RESEARCH (EIR)

- **Santa Clara County Office of Education – Data Adventures (2024–28):** The project will investigate the efficacy of Data Adventures, a middle-school data literacy program and mobile makerspace designed to improve data literacy skills and spark interest in data science. [Link to project narrative.](#)
- **Orenda Education – Guidance Alignment (2022–26):** The project will investigate the efficacy of Guidance Alignment, a data-driven student support services model that aims to address achievement and college readiness disparities in high schools in California. [Link to project narrative.](#)
- **Center for Supportive Schools – Achievement Mentoring (2019–24):** The project is investigating the efficacy of a high school-based mentoring program for high-need 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders at risk of dropping out of school. [Link to project narrative.](#)
- **Project SYNCERE – ENpowered (2019–24):** The project is investigating the efficacy of a middle school-based engineering curriculum that incorporates principles of engineering design thinking to improve knowledge of and interest in STEM education and careers for underrepresented students. [Link to project narrative.](#)
- **Center for Supportive Schools – Peer Group Connection (2017–23):** The project investigated the efficacy of a school-based, middle school transition and cross-age peer mentoring program for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. [Link to Final Evaluation Report.](#)

#### INVESTING IN INNOVATION (I3)

- **Baboquivari Unified School District (2012–16):** PRG conducted a study to assess a college readiness program implemented in the Tohono O'odham Nation. [Link to Evaluation Findings.](#)
- **Challenger Center for Space Science Education (2013–17):** PRG conducted a study that assessed the effectiveness of an experiential ocean science simulation for 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students. [Link to Final Evaluation Report.](#)
- **Center for Supportive Schools (2016–21):** PRG conducted a study that assessed the effectiveness of a peer mentoring program designed to improve academic outcomes, socioemotional skills, and school engagement for 9<sup>th</sup>-grade students in rural high schools. [Link to Evaluation Findings.](#)

### *PRG'S RESEARCH AND EVALUATION EXPERTISE*

- Research
- Evaluation
- Advanced data analysis methods
- Instrument development and design
- Quantitative and qualitative data collection methods
- Obtaining and managing third-party datasets
- In-depth knowledge of federal research evidence standards
- Ensuring data security and confidentiality

To learn more about partnering with PRG on an EIR application, visit [policyandresearch.com](https://policyandresearch.com) or contact us at [info@policyandresearch.com](mailto:info@policyandresearch.com).