U.S. Department of Education - EDCAPS
G5-Technical Review Form (New)

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 07/17/2019 10:39 AM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Educational Service Unit 2 (U411C190184)
Reader #2:   **********

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	18
Sub Total	20	18
Total	20	18

Technical Review Form

Reader #2:   * * * * * * * * * *

Applicant: Educational Service Unit 2 (U411C190184)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

   (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will, if well implemented, produce evidence about the project's effectiveness that would meet the What Works Clearinghouse standards with or without reservations as described in the What Works Clearinghouse Handbook (as defined in this notice).

   (2) The extent to which the evaluation will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings.

   (3) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes.

   (4) The extent to which the evaluation plan clearly articulates the key project components, mediators, and outcomes, as well as a measurable threshold for acceptable implementation.

   Strengths:

   1. The evaluation plan is based on a quasi-experimental design with baseline equivalence using a hierarchical linear regression model (treatment/control groups of similar demographics) (pg. e43, e44). The evaluation will include an implementation impact study which will be based on student achievement as measured by proficiency on standardized (state) test scores (pg. e44). If the evaluation is if well implemented, it should produce evidence about the project's effectiveness that would meet the What Works Clearinghouse standards with reservations.

   2. The program will be disseminated through the ESU2 website, and teachers, staff and schools will apply to present at regional, state, and national conferences (pg. e42).

   3. The evaluation will use baseline data with a linear regression model for treatment and control groups, with a fidelity of implementation model (pg. e46). The evaluation team is robust, consisting of the Assistant Dean of Education, Wayne State College, and staff from Redwood Coast Consulting (pg. e41). The plan calls for 100 annual classroom observations (treatment group) and 50 annual observations (control group) (pg. e41). The student achievement assessment instruments are valid, and the program implementation will be guided by research questions and benchmarks using a Program Implementation Fidelity Matrix (pg. e48). These methods of evaluation should provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes.

   4. The evaluation plan key project components are clearly articulated with measurable objectives and indicators for each goal (table, pg. e28-31). The logic model is aligned with the program activities and outcomes (pg. e33). Data from pre-treatment assessments (2018 and 2019) is listed as the dependent variable (pg. e44). The measurable threshold is cited as an overall score of 85/100 on the PIFM (pg. e44

Weaknesses:

1. NA

2. There is not enough evidence in the application to extract whether t the evaluation will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings. While the applicant mentions replication, and there will be an implementation study, there is not sufficient detail about the type of information that will be useful as guidance for this particular project.

3. NA

4. NA

Reader's Score: 18

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Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Educational Service Unit 2 (U411C190184)
Reader #1: **********

		Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions			
Selection Criteria			
Quality of the Project Evaluation			
1. Project Evaluation		20	17
	Sub Total	20	17
	Total	20	17

Technical Review Form

Panel #12 - EIR Early Phase Tier 2 - 11: 84.411C

Reader #1:   * * * * * * * * * *

Applicant: Educational Service Unit 2 (U411C190184)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. **The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

    (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will, if well implemented, produce evidence about the project's effectiveness that would meet the What Works Clearinghouse standards with or without reservations as described in the What Works Clearinghouse Handbook (as defined in this notice).

    (2) The extent to which the evaluation will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings.

    (3) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes.

    (4) The extent to which the evaluation plan clearly articulates the key project components, mediators, and outcomes, as well as a measurable threshold for acceptable implementation.

    Strengths:

    The proposed project is likely to meet the What Works Clearinghouse standards with reservations, because the evaluation uses a quasi-experimental design and includes a thorough plan to ensure baseline equivalence between treatment and comparison groups, based on demographic and achievement data for schools within the same region (pages e41-e43). The applicant identified a well-qualified, experienced external evaluator to conduct the evaluation (pages e42-e42).

    The evaluation plan includes a detailed plan for continually assessing fidelity of implementation (pages e36, e46-e47). This will help ensure that the proposed project is implemented as designed and will provide valuable information for replication.

    The applicant has identified research questions that align with the project goals and will provide important information on the impact of the proposed project (page e43). The applicant plans to collect student test data and observational data on teacher practices that will provide information on the impact of the proposed project (pages e43-e44). This will provide guidance about effective strategies in the proposed project.

    The applicant described an appropriate plan to analyze data in its evaluation plan (pages e45-e46). This is likely to provide information on the project's impact.

    Weaknesses:

    The applicant identified a possible confound; however, its plan for addressing it did not appear to be a sufficient method of addressing the situation (page e43).

    The amount of funding allocated to the external evaluator may not be sufficient for a comprehensive external evaluation at the level expected from What Works Clearinghouse and may not provide necessary information for replication (e168).

The applicant expects the proposed project to serve 8 schools (page e33). The sample size of schools may not provide an adequate amount of school-level data to determine the project's efficacy (page e45). The applicant did not clearly describe how it will compare treatment schools with control schools.

Reader's Score: **17**

Status: Submitted
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