

# **EED Renewal Technical Review Form**

*US Department of Education*

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**Division of Effective Educator Development (EED) Grant Review  
2021 SEED Renewal  
Application Technical Review Form  
(CFDA 84.423A)**

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<b>Applicant Name:</b> Texas A&M Reviewer 2	Application Number U423A180074
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Summary Ratings		
	Maximum Points	Score
<b>A. Quality of Evaluation Plan</b>	25	24
<b>B. Quality of the Project Design</b>	25	25
<b>C. Strategy to Scale</b>	25	25
<b>D. Adequacy of Resources</b>	25	25
<b>Selection Criteria Total Score</b>	<b>100</b>	99

## **A. Quality of Project Evaluation (up to 25 points)**

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

- (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies.
- (2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score:

**Strengths:**

(1) The applicant effectively demonstrated that methods of evaluation are in place for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies. For example, the project will conduct a year-long cluster randomized controlled trial of the SEED-MOOV+ITSS system to establish impact estimates of the intervention compared to control group schools on standardized and researcher designed measures of reading comprehension and a high-stakes assessment of science concept knowledge. The grades studied include grades 4 and 5 from the current study and will be extended to include grades 2 and 3 for the proposed replication. Reliable and valid measures for meeting WWC Evidence Standards will be used to measure pre and posttest outcomes for teachers and students. The applicant provided the intervention components in the logic model. (pgs. 12-15) The project will use a *Multi-Site Cluster Randomized Trial (CRT)* design with treatment at the school level (level 3) to test the effectiveness of MOOV+ITSS. Schools are randomly assigned to experimental conditions MOOV+ITSS or business-as-usual control within sites. Sites are clusters of similar schools matched by school locales/districts, SES, etc. (pgs. 22-28) Random assignment will be conducted in May 2022 followed by the MOOV PBPD for intervention schoolteachers (10 schools grades 2,3,4, and 5). At the end of the academic year when posttests are completed in March 2023, the control school- teachers will receive the MOOV PBPD and support to continue the intervention. (pgs. 12-15)

(2)The applicant effectively demonstrated that the methods of evaluation will include the use of objective performance measures that are related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data. For example, in addition to recording school district, type of district, school building, classroom, and teacher codes for the estimated 2400+ students per grade level who will participate in this investigation, the project will also collect data on gender, ethnicity, learning disabilities, SES indicators (e.g., free, or reduced-price lunch), and school-based reading comprehension assessments (e.g., Benchmark tests). As an incentive for schools to participate, they will receive access to the software and support for implementation at no cost, and teachers will receive an honorarium of 500 dollars for attending the PD sessions and participation in the whole study (e.g., at the conclusion of the data collection). (pgs. 15-19) Student pretests include standardized tests with strong reliability and validity evidence and researcher-designed measures of reading comprehension that have withstood the rigor of the WWC review process to meet outcome requirements. The Gray Silent Reading Test serves as a distal standardized reading comprehension measure. The researcher designed measures focus on main idea competency, signaling word knowledge, and summary quality in science texts. Finally, we are adding a high-stakes science concept knowledge test by using released STAAR science test questions. All these assessments will be administered at pre-tests to all students with parent consent to participate in the study. The tests will also be administered at the end of the school year in March 2023 and a delayed posttest will be administered after the summer break in September 2023. (pgs.19-23)

**Weaknesses:**

(1) The applicant is proposing to conduct a power analysis and indicated they need eight randomized school sites to ensure fidelity, however the applicant has only six schools in the study. The applicant did not explain how six schools having would support fidelity results for their randomized sites. (pg. 4)

(2) No weaknesses noted.

**B. Project Design (25 points).**

The Secretary considers the quality of the proposed project design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the project design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project.

(2) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score:

**Strengths:**

(1) The applicant comprehensively provided details that evidenced that the project design has in place procedures relevant for implementing and evaluating the project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies. For example, the applicant has created a systematic professional development system with web-based and in-school coaching and modeling for teachers, coaches, and administrators. Through the proposed renewal funding, the applicant is proposing to gather information to guide possible replication of project activities (i.e., text structure strategy instruction) on students' reading comprehension and science concept knowledge with full 360-degree support platform, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project with fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms serving diverse student populations. The SEED-MOOV team has created a vast repository of resources in a searchable library with documentation on how to access and use the systems. During the renewal period, the applicant will further refine these items with a goal to prepare school district friendly printed and digital materials for future use. (pgs. 20-23)

(2) The applicant effectively demonstrated that the project design includes strategies designed to build capacity. The applicant indicated that Texas A&M University is investing significant resources into SEED-MOOV platform to create a funding stream that will sustain and continuously improve the resources created and disseminate the findings beyond the lifetime of the SEED funding. For example, a curriculum developer has been hired to develop and organize a series of textbooks linked to the SEED-MOOV library resources to be published (digitally and in print) in 2022. The revenues generated from the textbooks will be used to partially sustain the SEED-MOOV resources. The project is establishing costs associated with the professional development for future users and have already established contracts with some school districts to create this funding stream. (pgs. 23-25)

**Weaknesses:**

- (1) No weaknesses noted.
- (2) No weaknesses noted.

**C. Strategy to Scale (up to 25 points).**

The Secretary considers the strategy to scale for the proposed project. In determining the strategy to scale for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The feasibility of successful replication of the proposed project, if favorable results are obtained, in a variety of settings and with a variety of populations.
- (2) The mechanisms the applicant will use to broadly disseminate information on its project so as to support further development or replication.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score:

**Strengths:**

(1) The applicant clearly demonstrated that the renewal project we will establish impact estimates and more replicable and generalizable outcomes for students in grades 4 and 5. In addition, they will extend the studies to include students in grades 2 and 3 to showcase the power of the platform to vertically align and improve science literacy and reading comprehension. They have already established a library of resources with over 1000+ and continuously growing set of artifacts to support practitioners and families. There have been over 250,000 downloads from the MOOV Library during the pandemic and the projections suggest that this will continue based on the feedback received so far. During the renewal phase the applicant will further document and prepare templates for schools to use when utilizing the resources in their own settings. The new textbooks will also serve as a guide to implementing the method in grades 2 to 5 in English language arts and science classrooms. The resources in English and Spanish address the needs of most learners in all schools. (pgs. 25-27)

(2) The applicant clearly demonstrated that the project will broadly disseminate information on the SEED-MOOV project to support further development or replication. The dissemination plan for the grant is tailored to the practitioners, administrators, school leaders, stakeholders, policymakers, and research community so that they may benefit from the findings from the project. The resources are available in English and Spanish reaching many communities who would otherwise not benefit from such valuable materials. Closed captioning and other ADA compliance is also available on the SEED-MOOV platform further allowing more learners to access the materials. If, after meeting WWC standards, the results are meaningful and statistically significant, the research team plans to disseminate findings using nine approaches customized to the needs of each group. The applicant has conducted school impact summits, webinars and posted on social media. (pgs. 27-29)

**Weaknesses:**

- (1) No weaknesses noted.
- (2) No weaknesses noted.

**D. Adequacy of Resources (up to 25 points).**

The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the adequacy of resources, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends, including, as appropriate, the demonstrated commitment of appropriate entities to such support.
- (2) The potential for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing program of the agency or organization at the end of Federal funding.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score:

**Strengths:**

(1) The applicant effectively demonstrate that the proposed project has the potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends. For example, the renewal plans will develop and enhance the program's capacity in the key areas of human, material, structure, and organization necessary to transition successful aspects of the science literacy and reading comprehension professional development and resources into systemwide improvements. (pg. 30) Additionally, Texas A&M University has already invested over 4 million dollars in endowments towards the literacy projects. The Houston Endowment has supported two million dollars in funding to support the literacy research in urban settings and establishing the Center for Urban School Partnerships. Further, the PI was awarded a 2-million-dollar Chancellor's EDGES fellowship to grow the literacy program and the research to support the systems. The applicant have also partnered with other agencies such as the Sunrise Rotary Club, International Dyslexia Association, Texas Association for Literacy Educators, and Texas Association of School Administrators to engage the communities that can benefit from the SEED-MOOV resources. (pgs. 30-32)

(2) The applicant sufficiently demonstrated that the project have incorporated project activities that could support the project after the funds have ended. For example, the applicant indicated that a curriculum developer has been hired by the Chancellor's EDGES Fellowship of 2.4 million dollars awarded to develop a series of textbooks linked to the SEED-MOOV library resources that will be published (digitally and in print) in 2022. (pgs. 29) The revenues generated from these textbooks will be used to partially sustain the SEED-MOOV resources. The project team is establishing costs associated with the professional development for future users. They have already established contracts with some school districts to create this funding stream. Student software license agreements will also be priced reasonably, providing the SEED-MOOV a platform with revenues to sustain the project. An interactive podcast is being developed for families and a small membership fee maybe affixed to create a funding stream for the resources. (pgs. 32-24)

**Weaknesses:**

- (1) No weaknesses noted.
- (2) No weaknesses noted.

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<b>Applicant Name: Texas A&amp;M</b>	Application Number U423A180074
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Summary Ratings		
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<b>B. Quality of the Project Design</b>	25	25
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<b>Selection Criteria Total Score</b>	<b>100</b>	99

## **A. Quality of Project Evaluation (up to 25 points)**

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

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(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score:

**Strengths:**

- (1) The project presents a complete evaluation system that combines student achievement scores, teacher satisfaction and ease of use along with school leadership. This could help guide future sections of the design of the program.

**Weaknesses:**

- (2) Only six sites selected for sites instead of ten grantee says its needed (p.24).

**B. Project Design (25 points).**

The Secretary considers the quality of the proposed project design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the project design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project.
- (2) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score:

**Strengths:**

- (1) The online platform makes the project design more accessible and easier for replication. The addition of literacy to the resources will support English Language Learners as the project targets this group of students. Lessons are in Spanish and English and will be available to parents.

**Weaknesses:**

No weakness noted

**C. Strategy to Scale (up to 25 points).**

The Secretary considers the strategy to scale for the proposed project. In determining the strategy to scale for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The feasibility of successful replication of the proposed project, if favorable results are obtained, in a variety of settings and with a variety of populations.
- (2) The mechanisms the applicant will use to broadly disseminate information on its project so as to support further development or replication.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score:

**Strengths:**

The online nature of the project allows it to be used anywhere and at any time which is a positive with the current climate of students using virtual platforms on a regular basis. The renewal grant will include textbooks and include a literacy component.

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses noted

**D. Adequacy of Resources (up to 25 points).**

The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the adequacy of resources, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends, including, as appropriate, the demonstrated commitment of appropriate entities to such support.
- (2) The potential for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing program of the agency or organization at the end of Federal funding.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score:

**Strengths:**

- (1) The Texas Foundation and Texas A&M university has committed to continuing the project after funding has ended. This support will help the program continue after federal funding has ended.

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses noted



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<b>Applicant Name: Texas A&amp;M University</b>	Application Number U423A180074
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Summary Ratings		
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<b>Selection Criteria Total Score</b>	<b>100</b>	100

## **A. Quality of Project Evaluation (up to 25 points)**

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- (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies.
- (2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score: \_

**Strengths:**

(1) The application proposes a new cluster RCT for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade reaching comprehension and science (pg. 13), which will also support the development of a 4-grade alignment of science and literacy curricula (pgs. 13, 16-17). The current project aims to complete an evaluation study that meets WWC standards with reservations and the renewal of this project will allow for a multi-site, cluster RCT meeting standards without reservations (pgs. 14, 28-29). The extension will also consider long-term knowledge loss between grades (pg. 23). A revised analysis of this project data will utilize a HLM (pg. 29).

(2) The application is mostly focused on quantitative outcomes such as student academic achievement in science and reading comprehensions, however, on page 19, the application mentions teacher interviews and surveys that provide context for the results from the cluster RCT. The quantitative outcomes and data proposed in the study will provide the highest level of inferential causal analysis to determine effectiveness.

**Weaknesses:**

(1) No weaknesses noted.

(2) No weaknesses noted.

**B. Project Design (25 points).**

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(1) The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project.

(2) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score: \_\_

**Strengths:**

(1) The proposed extension of this project will extend data collection for cohort 3 of the original project (pg. 13) and create a new cluster RCT for grades 2 and 3 in science and literacy (pg. 13). The new evaluation will also provide the documentation of the effectiveness of coaching and modeling, both online and in-person professional development (pg. 15). Teacher quality, reading comprehension, and science reading comprehension are all outcomes being explored in this extension (pg. 15) which were not comprehensively examined originally.

(2) The activities in this extension are to both document the effectiveness and create teacher professional development and student textbooks that incorporate the reading intervention into the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade curricula through online resources and trainings (pgs. 13, 34-35). These will maximize the potential for this project to build capacity and yield results for the continuation of this project.

**Weaknesses:**

(1) No weaknesses noted.

(2) No weaknesses noted.

**C. Strategy to Scale (up to 25 points).**

The Secretary considers the strategy to scale for the proposed project. In determining the strategy to scale for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The feasibility of successful replication of the proposed project, if favorable results are obtained, in a variety of settings and with a variety of populations.
- (2) The mechanisms the applicant will use to broadly disseminate information on its project so as to support further development or replication.

(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**Strengths:**

(1) The scale-up of this project includes a cost analysis of this project which will provide reasonable costs for the resources, textbooks, and teacher professional development which are all used in the replication (pg. 13). The development of texts and online resources to support the implementation of this intervention will also increase the successful replication of this project (pgs. 34-35).

(2) The application proposes to use their extensive dissemination network to share results and information about this project. They have identified national forums, conferences, and presentation opportunities to distribute information (pg. 36). The application also has identified local districts that have already expressed interest as well as commitment to use their state of Texas connections to promote the use of this curricula through education systems within the state (pg. 36-37).

**Weaknesses:**

(1) No weaknesses noted.

(2) No weaknesses noted.

**D. Adequacy of Resources (up to 25 points).**

The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the adequacy of resources, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends, including, as appropriate, the demonstrated commitment of appropriate entities to such support.
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(Maximum Points 25)

Reader's Score: \_\_\_\_

**Strengths:**

(1) The applicant has plans to document their platform, the professional development, and the implementation plans to ensure that this project extends well beyond the grant funding period (pg. 13). The applicant has secured funding from both the system chancellor's office and an external foundation to also support this initiative (pg. 38). The cost analysis will provide reasonable costs that could potentially bring in revenue streams for the continuation of project activities and further development (pgs. 13, 20). Mainstream dissemination from the institutional website will also allow for low-cost, high-impact dissemination of the results and this initiative (pgs. 38-39).

(2) Revenue streams for the sale of textbooks, resources, professional development implementation plans will incorporate the project activities and benefits to continue the impact of this intervention beyond the grant period (pgs. 14, 34-35, 38). The development of a revenue model to support this initiative is a strong demonstration of this program's continuation.

**Weaknesses:**

(1) **No weaknesses noted.**

(2) **No weaknesses noted.**