

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

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 08/08/2017 01:32 PM

## Technical Review

**Applicant:** Intercultural Development Research Association (U411C170153)

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

	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Scored</b>
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>Quality of the Project Evaluation</b>		
1. Project Evaluation	20	13
<b>Sub Total</b>	20	13
<b>Total</b>	20	13

# Technical Review Form

Panel #10 - EIR - Early Phase - Evaluation - 10: 84.411C

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

Applicant: Intercultural Development Research Association (U411C170153)

## Questions

### Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. In determining the quality of the project evaluation to be conducted, 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 Evidence Standards with reservations.
- (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 components, mediators, and outcomes of the grant-supported intervention, as well as a measurable threshold for acceptable implementation.

#### Strengths:

1. The applicant will conduct a quasi-experimental design to meet the What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards with reservations. The study will include a baseline equivalence, matched comparison study (p. 20-21).
2. The project will implement a continuous feedback loop and generate a report highlighting the key components of the project (p. 25).
3. The evaluation will address several research questions correlated to the goals of the program to look at reading achievement, math achievement, achievement levels for math and reading based on Texas state standards, and graduation rates assessed using standardized tests and graduation rates (21-22). Fidelity measures include trainer logs, coach logs, and grantee reports (p. 25).
4. Key components are identified as enhanced skills in instructional leadership, enhanced school climate, and increased parent engagement. The description and explanation for standard deviations is well described and includes the model for average baseline data and minimum detectable effect sizes (MDE) (p. 23-24). Thresholds are extensively detailed in the fidelity measure in the appendix (Appendix, p. e190).

#### Weaknesses:

The replication remarks are vague and generic. It is not apparent how this model would scale in programs that are more diverse or have different size configurations either regionally, or nationally.

While there is a comprehensive fidelity measurement tool (Appendix, p. e190), and a reference to surveys and focus groups in the narrative, it is not clear what these will focus on, how they will be administered, and how often and to whom. While one of the goals is increased engagement among parents, there is no discussion of how parent engagement will be assessed (p. 10, 25).

NOTE: It would be helpful to include a resume for the lead investigator from Abt Associates, Inc., Dr. Melissa Velez, so that credentials for the scope of the evaluation can be determined.

**Reader's Score:** 13

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**Status:** Submitted

**Last Updated:** 08/08/2017 01:32 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 08/08/2017 05:45 PM

## Technical Review

**Applicant:** Intercultural Development Research Association (U411C170153)

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

	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Scored</b>
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>Quality of the Project Evaluation</b>		
1. Project Evaluation	20	20
<b>Sub Total</b>	20	20
<b>Total</b>	20	20

# Technical Review Form

Panel #10 - EIR - Early Phase - Evaluation - 10: 84.411C

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

Applicant: Intercultural Development Research Association (U411C170153)

## Questions

### Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. In determining the quality of the project evaluation to be conducted, 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 Evidence Standards with reservations.
- (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 components, mediators, and outcomes of the grant-supported intervention, as well as a measurable threshold for acceptable implementation.

#### Strengths:

The proposed project offers strong evidence that its methods of evaluation will produce evidence about the project's effectiveness that would meet the What Works Clearinghouse Standards with Reservations. The program evaluation plan includes both detailed, multi-year Implementation Fidelity and Effectiveness analyses (pg 19-20). The baseline equivalence of treatment and control groups will be developed through comprehensive and impressive matching, including state test scores, race/ethnicity, and school characteristics (pg 22-23).

The proposed project offers strong evidence that it will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings. The planned two-year implementation analysis will provide an opportunity to develop the project model in a way that supports replication in other settings (pg. 19), including a scaling-up strategy (pg 20). Continuous feedback and implementation of improvements will support frequent assessment and updates to the project plan as needed (pg. 25).

The proposed project offers strong evidence that the methods of evaluation will provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes. The application cites five What Works Clearinghouse practices that will guide its utilization of data and support a data-driven culture (pg 5). The proposed questions and outcome measures are strong, and their empirical nature provides objective, bottom-line data regarding the effectiveness of this project (pg 21-22). The proposed regression analysis model (pg 24) is rigorous, and estimated MDEs appear reasonable.

The proposed project's evaluation plan provides strong evidence that it clearly articulates the key components, mediators, and outcomes of the grant supported intervention, as well as a measurable threshold for acceptable implementation. The logic model (page 12) provides a roadmap of the components, mediators, and outcomes, and the narrative on pages 24-25 suggest the interlocking nature of the various components in assuring student achievement gains.

#### Weaknesses:

This application was thoroughly discussed, and no weaknesses were found by this reviewer.

**Reader's Score:** 20

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**Status:** Submitted

**Last Updated:** 08/08/2017 05:45 PM