

## Department of Education Pearson

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for a \$4 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) for improving outcomes through data use.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is requesting approval to apply for a \$4 million federal grant through the USDOE to fund a web-based data-reporting tool and research project. The grant application is due April 13, 2017. The grant requires an in-kind match of 10 percent, which can be met through the scale-up work already occurring in collaboration with the University of Kansas. Eligibility criteria allow ODE to apply while universities may only partner with an eligible entity. Funding is available through the new Education and Innovation Research (EIR) grant program under the Every Student Succeeds Act and targets high need students. There are three categories of EIR grants which are summarized in the following table.

	Early Phase	Mid-Phase	Expansion
Purpose	Develop and test innovative practices	Further develop these practices and scale them regionally or nationally	Scale the demonstrably effective practices nationally
Support Required	Logic model informed by research	Moderate evidence	Strong Evidence
Maximum award (all may run 5 years)	\$4 million	\$8 million	\$15 million
Expected number of awards	24-38	15-20	2-5

High-need students include those who live in poverty, are homeless or in foster care, have been incarcerated, have dropped out or are at risk of not graduating on time, perform far below grade level, have disabilities, are English language learners, or attend high-minority enrollment schools.

The ODE application is for an Early Phase grant of \$4 million which would run five years. The proposal focuses on improving school climate as well as supporting high needs students, in particular students with special needs. If successful, the grant would pay for developing and testing an online data tool, coaching and training in the use of the tool, revising protocols for Team-Initiated Problem Solving (TIPS) to fit with the tool, and evaluating the tool.

The data tool would collect existing student data, which is currently kept separately, into integrated reports known as a DataWall. Information such as assessment scores, attendance records and disciplinary actions could be accessed together for faster and better educator intervention. The concept appears similar to using dashboards and scorecards for better results in business management. The goals are to significantly improve academic and school behavior outcomes through faster access to comprehensive student data. ODE also hopes to produce supporting evidence for a Mid-Phase grant application, which would scale up the innovation for rural schools in Oregon and across the nation.

Research on the efficacy of the DataWall and TIPS would include two cohorts of elementary school students in Redmond and Sisters who the state classifies at risk in reading and who live in poverty. The project would ultimately involve 16,200 students. ODE and the Redmond School District have participated in a pilot study of the proposed project previously. The project stages and budget are as follows:

Stage
Year 1: Develop & test
Year 2-5: Efficacy Cohort 1
Year 3-5: Efficacy Cohort 2
Year 4-5: Publish evidence

Budget
ODE annual meeting travel: \$30,000
Kansas contracted services: \$3,493,672
Subgrants: \$449,668
Indirect: \$26,660