We believe that education research is integral to improving education, making education systems more equitable, and increasing opportunities to learn across the lifespan.
Housekeeping

• Closed captioning is available
• Viewing Options – Side-by-Side Mode
• Use the Q&A function to submit questions
• You can also ”upvote” 👍
• We will have time to answer questions halfway through the presentation as well as ample time at the end
• We are recording this webinar and it will be available at spencer.org
We support education research that is:

Rigorous. Intellectually ambitious, innovative, and methodologically sound.

Relevant. Touching on the most pressing questions and opportunities in education.

Equitable. Representing a diversity of scholars and scholarship contributing to just learning environments grounded in justice.

Transformative. Reaching beyond academic audiences and leading to lasting improvement in education and learning.

Collaborative. Engaging expertise and perspectives across disciplinary boundaries, institutions, practitioners, families and communities.
Is Spencer interested in...?
What We Fund

Field-Initiated Research
- Awards from $50,000-$500,000
- Feedback and reviews provided by panelists
- No priority areas

Training Fellowships
- Program is run by the National Academy of Education
- [https://naeducation.org/](https://naeducation.org/)

Field-Building Activities
- Conference Grants, topics change periodically
- Mentorship Award, through a nomination process

Program is run by the National Academy of Education
- [https://naeducation.org/](https://naeducation.org/)
What We Fund

- Small Research Grants: Up to $50,000
- Large Research Grants: $125,000-$500,000
- Research-Practice Partnership Grants: Up to $400,000
- Conference Grants: Up to $50,000
Research Grants on Education: Small – “Small Grants”

Intellectually ambitious and technically sound research relevant to the most pressing questions and opportunities in education

**Full Proposal deadlines:**

- November 5, 2020
- March 1, 2021
- June 1, 2021
- October 1, 2021

• Field initiated education research
• Usually 1-2 years
• Budgets up to $50,000
• 1-step application process
• 3 cycles each year
• Eligible proposals will be peer reviewed and sent feedback
Research Grants on Education: Large – “Large Grants”

Intellectually ambitious and technically sound research relevant to the most pressing questions and opportunities in education

**Intent to Apply deadline:**
January 15, 2021

**Full Proposal deadline:**
February 5, 2021

- Field initiated education research
- Up to 5 years in duration
- Submitted proposals are divided into three funding tiers:
  - $125,000-$250,000
  - $250,001-$375,000
  - $375,001-$500,000
- 2-step application process
  - Intent to apply
  - Full proposal
- 2 cycles per year
- Eligible proposals will be peer reviewed and sent feedback
Research-Practice Partnerships Grant Program – “RPPs”

Collaborative and participatory partnerships addressing critical problems of practice

Intent to Apply deadline:
November 24, 2020

Full Proposal deadline:
December 17, 2020

- Funds research, infrastructure, communication, and capacity development
- Partnerships between researchers and school districts, state education offices, universities, community-based organizations, informal educators
- Budgets up to $400,000
- 2-step application process
  - Intent to apply
  - Full proposal
- 1 cycle per year
- Eligible proposals will be peer reviewed and sent feedback
SPENCER FOUNDATION

Conference Grant Program

Convenes researchers and education stakeholders whose substantive knowledge, theoretical insight, and methodological expertise can be assembled in ways that build upon and advance new directions in education research.

Full Proposal deadlines:
October 23, 2020
May 6, 2021

- Bring together a diverse group of educational scholars and/or stakeholders to influence public discourse, practice, or the policy of education through the advancement of education research.
- Supports small conferences and focused symposia that have budgets up to $50,000.
- 1-step application process.
- 2 cycles per year.
- Eligible proposals will be peer reviewed and sent feedback.
Writing a High-Quality Proposal

Things to consider with developing a field-initiated research proposal
Our Review Process

Our review process is designed to support the field:

- Identify strongest proposals
- Give feedback to scholars intended to help strengthen their work regardless of funding decision
- Engage the broader field and expertise in decision making
Significance of Your Project

Questions to Consider

• What are you studying?
• Why are you studying it?
• What will we learn from the study?

Common Mistakes

• Projects are not expressly research (e.g., book projects, curriculum or technology development, program evaluations).
• Projects are not clearly connected to education.
High-quality proposals make a compelling rationale for the study that is based on the relevant literature.
Questions to Consider

• What is it that we know? What is it that we don’t know? And how is this problematic?

• What are the major theories that help us make sense of the issue?

Common Mistakes

• Overly broad and long review of literature, or no discussion of research literature.

• Little or no discussion of relevant theory.

• Lack of a clear argument for the theoretical contribution of the study
High-quality proposals describe and provide a convincing rationale for the design of their study.
Research Design

Questions to Consider

• What is your approach to research and how does this approach align with your line of inquiry?

• How is your research design informed by your theoretical or conceptual framework?

Common Mistakes

• Missing details (e.g., sample size, recruitment criteria, protocols or survey items, model variables).

• Limited or no information about any intervention in the study.

• Limited or no analysis plan.
Tips for Writing A High-Quality Spencer Proposal

1. Start with a question
   Too often we see proposals that start with a topic.
   A strong proposal is question-focused.

2. Know your audience
   Your proposal will be read by researchers with different types of expertise.
   Make sure it speaks to a broad research audience.

3. Align your sections
   Your proposal should tell us what you’re going to do, how you’re going to do it, and why it matters.
   Be explicit about how these pieces fit together.

4. Learn from feedback
   Our review processes are intended to provide feedback to you that help to improve your work—regardless of funding decision.