

**Overview of the Common Guidelines for Education Research and Development\***  
See [bit.ly/nsf-ies\\_guide](http://bit.ly/nsf-ies_guide)  
**EvaluATE**  
[evalu-ate.org](http://evalu-ate.org)

**FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH**  
advances the frontiers of education and learning; develops and refines theory and methodology; and provides fundamental knowledge about teaching and/or learning.

**EARLY-STAGE OR EXPLORATORY RESEARCH**  
investigates approaches to education problems to establish the basis for design and development of new interventions or to provide evidence for whether an established intervention is ready to be tested in an efficacy study.

**DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH** develops new or improved interventions to achieve well-specified learning objectives.

**EFFICACY RESEARCH** determines whether an intervention or strategy can improve outcomes under “ideal” conditions.

**EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH** estimates the impacts of an intervention when implemented under conditions of routine practice.

**SCALE-UP RESEARCH** estimates the impacts of an intervention under conditions of routine practice *and* across a broad spectrum of populations and settings.

**JUSTIFICATION**

**Policy and/or Practical Significance**

Focus the study on important issues in education with implications for policy and practice and explain why the research is needed					
	Explain how the research will generate important new knowledge	Describe how the intervention differs from current practice			
		Identify implementation setting(s) and population(s)			
		Explain why and how intervention will improve education outcomes or system efficiencies			
			Explain why the intervention will be studied under ideal conditions	Explain why the intervention will be studied under typical conditions	Explain why the intervention will be studied under typical conditions with a broad sample

**Theoretical and Empirical Basis**

Describe the theoretical and empirical rationale for the study					
Explain how the study will advance knowledge and understanding about education and/or extend research methodologies	<i>If researching existing intervention, explain why it should be studied through Early-Stage research rather than an Efficacy study</i>	If justification rests on evidence related to individual components, explain how combining them will lead to outcomes	Include evidence from prior studies <i>and /or</i> evidence of wide use of the intervention <i>and/or</i>		
		Describe theory of action	<i>If a replication study, include evidence of positive impacts and rationale for new study population</i>	impact estimates from either (a) one study that includes multiple sites or settings or (b) two studies that include one site or setting	

**EVIDENCE**

**Project Outcomes**

Advances in knowledge, understanding, or methodology	Evidence about how to influence education outcomes	Complete documentation of intervention and the study			
Findings to inform future research	Determination of appropriate next steps for the research	Theory of action	Description of treatment and comparison conditions		
		Impact measures for use in future research	Estimates of impact, including for sample subgroups if possible		
		Pilot data	Implications for theory of action		

**Research Plan**

Describe research questions, hypotheses, objectives, design, setting, data collection plan, instruments, sampling, analysis, and reporting					
		Describe plan for collecting pilot data	Identify outcomes of interest; minimum impact size for policy or practical relevance		
		Describe plan for collecting data on feasibility of implementation	Describe how validity and reliability will be assured		
			Data collection on implementation, context, and comparison conditions		

**FEEDBACK**

Subject the study to a series of external, critical reviews of its design and activities via one or more of the following strategies: external review panels or advisory boards proposed by the project and/or the agency, a third-party evaluator, peer review of publications and conference presentations resulting from the project

\*The Guidelines were developed by the Institute of Education Science at the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation. This overview, created by EvaluATE, is a distillation of key points from the Guidelines.