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

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)
Reader #1: **********

	Points Possible	**Points Scored**
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Significance		
1. Significance	35	0
Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan		
1. Project Design/Mgmt. Plan	45	0
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	13
Total	100	13

Technical Review Form

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

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. **In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

    (1) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project.

    (2) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.

    (3) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.

    Strengths:

    NA

    Weaknesses:

    NA

Reader's Score: 0

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan

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

    (1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the project are clearly specified and measurable.

    (2) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

    (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

    (4) The mechanisms the applicant will use to broadly disseminate information on its project so as to support further development or replication.

    Strengths:

    NA

Weaknesses:

NA

Reader's Score: 0

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 clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.

   (2) 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.

   (3) The extent to which the proposed project plan includes sufficient resources to carry out the project evaluation effectively.

   Strengths:

   The authors key evaluation questions are related to the goals and objectives of the project as outlined on page 21. The authors will use a combination of quantitative and qualitative data to assess fidelity. For example, each year formative evaluation will address whether the proposed objectives are being met and if the planned activities are implemented. The summative evaluation will consider student academic performance, skill development, graduation rates, college enrollment, etc. They will use propensity score matching to match treatment with control groups which is appropriate to insure that the groups are as similar as possible. The authors provide a table of the impact analysis summary (p. 22) that includes the evaluation questions and the data sources.

   Weaknesses:

   It is difficult to understand the sample sizes and no MDES data is given to guide sample size. Further, it is not clear how the treatment group will be formed other than it will be a "carefully orchestrated intentional selection" p. 24 with randomly selected students. The complexity of the data and the number of analyses (p 24) can make interpretation and usefulness of the findings questionable and difficult to ascertain program effectiveness. The resources for the evaluation of 8.7% seems low given the range of proposed evaluation activities. In addition, while the evaluation organization, EGT, is referenced as an experienced group, no specific individuals are mentioned so it is not known who will staff the evaluation and if the staffing is sufficient.

Reader's Score: 13

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 09/22/2016 12:26 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)
Reader #2:   **********

	Points Possible	**Points Scored**
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Significance		
1. Significance	35	33
Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan		
1. Project Design/Mgmt. Plan	45	45
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	0
Total	100	78

Technical Review Form

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

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. **In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

   (1) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project.

   (2) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.

   (3) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.

   Strengths:

   Region One Project Health Education and Leadership for All (Heal2), in partnership with Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance, South Texas College, targeting three LEAs (Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District, La Joya Independent School District and South Texas Independent School District) seeks to "promote and resolve diversity" across a region serving a unique population in Texas, which are predominately Hispanics, English Learners (ELs), low – income population, high poverty, low-student achievement, poor nutrition, and high illiteracy (pg. 2) to meet the increased demand for a better-educated and skilled workforce in the health industry, one of the largest industry in the area proposed to be served by the project.

   Region One Project Heal2, proposes to orient students (under-represented minorities from disadvantaged backgrounds) toward health-integrated/nursing careers by building upon lessons learned from an existing implementation pilot, Region one, to complete high school and work toward the achievement of post-secondary education and employability in a health related field.

   Region One Project Heal2, focusing on Health infused in STEM, proposes to provide a solution for eligible high school students to enroll in college courses while in high school by promoting diversity—inclusion of minority students in the health/STEM industry in order to address the shortage of nurses in the health field.

   Region One Project Heal2 attempts to have a broad impact through its partnerships to integrate a curriculum inclusive of Mathematics, Science and Technology disciplines using a Problem-Based (PBL) concept in a health-integrated (STEM design) related learning structure—all of which proposes to play an integral part in cultivating the targeted population exposure to and understanding of a Health Science-integrated STEM focus in an authentic hospital setting connected to classroom instruction (pg. 5).

   Region One Project Heal2, approach attempts to engage a diverse group of learners in a program of study in order to "enhance their academic engagement, achievement, and college/career readiness" through: (1) utilizing Project Based Learning (PBL) as an instructional approach focused on Math and Health-science, (2) incorporating instruction and assessment in core subject with health-integrated content and the development of 21st century skills, and (3) providing professional development and technical assistance to the educators charge with providing students with rigorous mathematics/Science/Technology coursework, mentoring, counseling, and enrichment activities, which foster real-world learning and college and career readiness (pg. 5).

   The notion of Project Based Learning (PBL) as an approach to developing students' knowledge and skills in

STEM/Health-related areas increases student's ability to develop complex problem solving skills through solving complex questions connected to real-world issues. Moreover, PBL is also highlighted as an innovative instructional basis for increasing teacher knowledge and pedagogical skills, as well as student achievement and attainment of the necessary mathematics/science skills is. PBL, based on a model classroom instructional concept, has evidence of improving student achievement and has a record of playing a critical role in helping schools make significant improvement in student's achievement and impact teacher effectiveness.

Region One Project Heal2 model of the interconnections of mathematics, science, and health promotes the ability of the targeted population to be generally prepared for employability in Health-related careers.

Weaknesses:

While Region One Project Heal2 holds great promise in meeting the needs of economically distressed schools and students and the focal areas of STEM/Health-related addresses an innovative and well-needed economical and regional need, the applicant failed to consider in this proposal how students, not interested in health-related careers, will be included. That is, considering that STEM content/skills can garner other career and employability skills, a pathway for students not interested in a health-related career needs to be considered within this framework.

Reader's Score: 33

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan

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

   (1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the project are clearly specified and measurable.

   (2) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

   (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

   (4) The mechanisms the applicant will use to broadly disseminate information on its project so as to support further development or replication.

   Strengths:

   Region One Project Heal2 overarching goal of "advancing strategies to increase the number of healthcare providers from a diverse population while attempting to alleviate a drastic nursing shortage by expanding the health-related pipeline of students from minority backgrounds" is clear with specific objectives connecting the use of project-and problem-based learning (grounded in learning theories, situated learning, meta-cognition, self-directed, and cooperative learning activities, professional development, rigorous coursework, pathways of student, extended leaning) are expected to lead to specific desired and measurable outcomes (pg. 9-14).

   Region One Project Heal2 incorporates a team-based practice approach through a interdisciplinary health service environment in which students, teachers, and project partners are part of an organizational and operational management structure that attempts to ensure objectives are met. Region One uses its experience, knowledge, and administrative systems (e.g., software, communication systems, fiscal appraisals, staffing plans, customer feedback mechanisms and techniques or organizational control and continuous quality improvement) to monitor the project's progress, assess accountability, as well as manage information and reporting oversight (pg. 14-15).

   Region One Project Heal2 makes an attempt to provide timely and frequent feedback through regular monthly project

meetings for coordination and collaboration, review responsibilities, tasks, and schedules, as well as conduct other meetings and conversations, which the project management team may deem necessary for managing project activities. This intended loop of communication between and amongst the project team, partners, and schools will provide opportunities for determining whether or not the project is meeting its intended goals and objectives one time. Moreover, the process provides distinct opportunities for regular feedback and ongoing program improvement, particularly, as Region One notes its intention to have regular communication with participating schools and/or district to address issues or concerns throughout the project implementation.

Region One Project Heal2 connects the dissemination of project results/findings to those entities (Board of Trustees, Superintendent, principals, teachers, webs-based portals to provide access to program toolkits, brochures, data dashboards, presentations, symposiums, educational conferences at the local, regional and/or national levels, school work sessions college forums, and project reports) that can benefit most from the outcomes of the project through a variety of strategies, which highlights program information, evaluation findings, and best practices through: (1) collection of quantitative/qualitative data on challenges, lessons learned and best practice, (2) in-depth analysis of short-and-long term performance measures on students/teachers, and (3) analysis of grade levels, age, gender of students, teaching experience of teachers—all of which will be used to triangulate data collection in order to provide a program-wide, evidence-based data results and conclusions (pg. 19-21).

Region One Project Heal2 dissemination plan correlates to the feedback and improvement look, which specifically outlines the tenets of the goals/objectives of the project and has the potential to set a tone for transparency within and across various committee and teams within project team, such as the Executive Council, which has the authority to make decision for ongoing improvement (pg. 15).

Weaknesses:

No Weaknesses Found.

Reader's Score: 45

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 clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.

   (2) 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.

   (3) The extent to which the proposed project plan includes sufficient resources to carry out the project evaluation effectively.

   Strengths:

   N/A

   Weaknesses:

   N/A

Reader's Score: 0

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 09/22/2016 12:06 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)
Reader #3: **********

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Significance		
1. Significance	35	35
Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan		
1. Project Design/Mgmt. Plan	45	45
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	0
Total	100	80

Technical Review Form

Panel #1 - i3 Development - 1: 84.411C

Reader #3:   **********

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. **In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

    (1) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project.

    (2) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.

    (3) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.

    Strengths:

    The target population for this project has been deemed the hardest to serve in Texas due to disproportionately high number, of Hispanics (99 percent), who are found to be economically disadvantaged, considered "at risk," limited in English proficiency, English language Learners and students with disabilities (15 percent). Addressing this population through the project addresses the absolute priority.The project will target three South Texas school districts with high percentages of low-income youth, resulting in missed opportunities to promote diversity in the health-related field of nursing since these students are less likely to graduate from high school or go to college, which reflects the severity of the of the problem. The nursing population is comprised of 83 percent White, 6 percent African American, 6 percent Asian and 3 percent Hispanic. The health industry is one of the largest in South Texas (p.2). The proposed project will build on the success of Project HEAL2's Nursing Pilot Program which is ongoing and was developed to promote and resolve diversity. The students who participated in this program out performed Non-participants on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness standards in Algebra 1, English and Biology. The current project will build on that success and direct their efforts toward preparing students for the many opportunities expected to open up in healthcare jobs/careers (p.3-6).

    Weaknesses:

    No weaknesses found.

Reader's Score: 35

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan

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

    (1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the project are clearly specified and measurable.

    (2) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

(4) The mechanisms the applicant will use to broadly disseminate information on its project so as to support further development or replication.

Strengths:

The goals, objectives (Objectives 1, 2 and 3 (p.9-10) and outcomes addressing increases in academic performance, preparation for post-secondary education/nursing education of underrepresented students, increases in graduation rates, increases in awareness, readiness and preparation for postsecondary education are clearly stated and measurable. Project details and the plan for management are on time and within budget. It is adequate to achieve the objective. The project calls for housing the plan in the Division of Curriculum and instruction and the use of organizational management software. It calls for the development of an Advisory Council, Executive Council, Director, partners and Lead Health Coach. The program organization and implementation is detailed and organized by the year. Key personnel and Responsibilities are clearly identified. Activities/Milestones, responsibilities, timelines and objectives are outlined. The management plan will achieve the objectives through the use of a management tool which will be used to offer feedback and information. To further strengthened the management plan, the team will meet yearly to review and update for continuous improvements in the operation of the proposed project (p.19-20). The plan for dissemination is strong. The project proposes to use qualitative and quantitative data for dissemination and replication (p.20 Figure 1). The plan calls for development of an implementation manual which should serve to assist in program design and replication. The plan calls for wide-spread dissemination through varied mediums and formats such as web-links, brochures, data-dashboards, presentation symposiums, conferences, etc. (p.21)

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses found.

Reader's Score: 45

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 clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.

   (2) 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.

   (3) The extent to which the proposed project plan includes sufficient resources to carry out the project evaluation effectively.

   Strengths:

   NA

   Weaknesses:

   NA

Reader's Score: 0

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 09/23/2016 02:52 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)
Reader #4: **********

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Significance		
1. Significance	35	35
Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan		
1. Project Design/Mgmt. Plan	45	45
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	0
Total	100	80

Technical Review Form

Reader #4: **********

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. **In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

   (1) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project.

   (2) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.

   (3) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.

   Strengths:

   This project addresses a severely economically impacted region of eight counties in south Texas where limited healthcare and a high underserved Hispanic population comprise the constituents targeted by the project (p. 1-4). This project builds upon a one-year pilot project and plans to expand those results to a larger region as well as include science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and problem-based learning methodologies as new strategies to successfully impact communities through student learners (p.4). The project plans a targeted effort to increase the number of nursing students through a concerted effort educate and train students to enter the many the recently designated healthcare hub in the project's geographical region. By so doing, the project will promote to the region's diverse students, training enabling immediate entrance into middle skill positions available in the workforce within this region. The project targets social diversity gaps experienced by first generation diverse and socioeconomically marginalized populations, and thus, will greatly improve the training and employability as priorities to the community (p.1-5).

   Weaknesses:

   No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 35

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan

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

   (1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the project are clearly specified and measurable.

   (2) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

   (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

(4) The mechanisms the applicant will use to broadly disseminate information on its project so as to support further development or replication.

 Strengths:

This project describes clear measureable and specific objectives as part of the project outline, thereby supporting the capacity of the project to gauge success of the project (p9-10).

The project details with specificity a timeline as connected to objectives and outcomes and is clear about the responsible parties who will carry out strategies across the timeline providing evidence of planning and accountability associated with the implementation of the project and its success (p.17-19). Procedures for communications are clearly described. Monthly meetings by responsible parties are planned to occur across all levels. This project connects milestones signifying improvement to budget components outlining the planning aspect to the financial aspects associated with project implementation and results (p. 19). Mechanisms of broad dissemination of project results are outlined to include state level symposia and conferences. Plans to disseminate in a much broader national arena provide support for national efforts of project understanding and scalability. Of special note is the planned production of bilingual materials to be disseminated in print and digital formats, thereby targeting the largest dissemination audience possible (p. 20-21).

 Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 45

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 clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.

   (2) 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.

   (3) The extent to which the proposed project plan includes sufficient resources to carry out the project evaluation effectively.

 Strengths:

 N/A

 Weaknesses:

 N/A

Reader's Score: 0

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 09/23/2016 03:58 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)
Reader #5:   **********

	Points Possible	**Points Scored**
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Significance		
1. Significance	35	0
Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan		
1. Project Design/Mgmt. Plan	45	0
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	15
Total	100	15

Technical Review Form

Reader #5:   **********

Applicant: Region One Education Service Center (U411C160117)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. **In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

    (1) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project.

    (2) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.

    (3) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.

    Strengths:

    N/A

    Weaknesses:

    N/A

Reader's Score: **0**

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Design and Management Plan

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

    (1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the project are clearly specified and measurable.

    (2) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

    (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

    (4) The mechanisms the applicant will use to broadly disseminate information on its project so as to support further development or replication.

    Strengths:

    N/A

Weaknesses:

N/A

Reader's Score: 0

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 clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.

   (2) 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.

   (3) The extent to which the proposed project plan includes sufficient resources to carry out the project evaluation effectively.

   Strengths:

   The design of the project very clearly and comprehensively addresses each research question. The impact analysis is clearly mapped to data sources and evaluation methods, page 22. These data sources include relevant data from the Texas Student Data System and pre-post STAAR-EOC data, as well as data for all relevant components of the proposed project, page 22. Appropriate measures for assessing the number and impact of project and problem-based learning are provided, by grade level, page 22.

   A quasi-experimental design using a multiple-cohort individual-level longitudinal control trial approach represents a highly rigorous means for evaluating project impacts, and meets WWC evidence standards page 23.

   Plans to include students via an application process that will be attentive to inclusion of low income, minority, English language learners and students with disabilities is to be commended. The use of propensity-score matching to establish matches between treatment and control groups is a strength, page 23.

   The direct assessment of the impact of the project on teachers' instructional strategies through classroom observation data and professional development session evaluation data is a strength, page. 22

   Although $80,000, or 8.7% of the total project budget is allocated per project year, given that the total number of students included within the proposed project (300) is relatively small, the budget is adequate, page 25.

   Weaknesses:

   Though the inclusion of a diverse group of students is consistent with Absolute Priority 1, it was unclear how applications would be used to select the sample of students in each year of the project, and how that sample would be representative of students discussed in the project narrative, page 23.

   Though school attendance is commonly used to measure engagement in school, the proposed evaluation could be improved by providing a specific measures of level of engagement within areas related to HEAL coursework and activities, page 22.

   The most significant weakness was the lack of inclusion of qualitative components within the formative evaluation. Individual interviews and/or focus groups with teachers during the first year of implementation would provide data critical

to determining adjustments that might need to be made to ensure implementation fidelity, page 21.

Reader's Score: **15**

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 09/23/2016 03:59 PM