Connecting Research, Policy and Practice

Update from the National Center for Special Education Research

Joan McLaughlin, Ph.D.

Commissioner

December 10, 2015

A special thank you to…

Kara Carpenter

Jorge E. Gonzalez

Patricia Snyder

MSG

MANHATTAN STRATEGY GROUP

Thank you NCSER staff

Jacquelyn Buckley

Robert Ochsendorf

Kimberley Sprague

Amy Sussman

Katherine Taylor

Wendy Wei

Thank you!

Happy 10th Anniversary NCSER!

316 Research Grants

Over 50 Fellows

4 Early Career Grants

~ $607 million Investment

Today's agenda

- Some of what we have heard from you and other stakeholders this year
- Building science at IES
- FY 2016 and FY 2017 Status and Competitions
- Other Opportunities

What We Heard from Stakeholders

Formal Requests for Feedback

- Technical Working Groups
  - Practitioners
  - Researchers

- Request for Public Comment

Link to TWG Summaries

http://ies.ed.gov/ncser/whatsnew/techworkinggroup/

Questions We Asked

1. What research studies have had the most influence on education policy and practice in the past 10 years? What lessons can we draw from these studies to inform IES's future work?

2. What are the critical problems or issues in education today on which *new* research is needed?

3. How can IES target its resources to do the most good for the field?

Critical Research Issues Raised by Researchers and Practitioners

1. Need a stronger focus on implementation and implementation science.
   - Examining why programs work or don't work
   - Learning how to adapt interventions to different contexts and populations

2. Need more collaboration between researchers and practitioners.
   - Focusing on problems practitioners find relevant
   - Helping practitioners apply lessons

Critical Research Issues Raised by Researchers and Practitioners (cont'd)

3. Provide more "quick turnaround" grants.
   - Take advantage of natural experiments
   - Produce research that is more useful to policymakers and practitioners

4. Support more longitudinal research.
   - Use administrative data

Critical Research from Respondents focusing on Special Ed

- Longitudinal studies to understand change and continuity

  - focus on transition from high school

- Instructional staff

  - teacher quality, effectiveness, retention, professional development, paras

- Policies and practices that affect student achievement

Critical Research in Special Ed (cont'd)

- Interventions that allow for flexible responsiveness to student needs
- Understudied populations
  - Low incidence
  - Multiple disabilities
  - Severe disabilities
  - Incarcerated youth

Researchers' Views on How to Target Limited Resources

1. Identify some priority research topics and concentrate funds on these topics.

2. Invest in a long-term research agenda.

   - Big problems will not be solved with short-term research funding.

Researchers' Views on How to Target Limited Resources (cont'd)

3. Support collaborative research:
   - Among researchers
   - Between researchers and practitioners

4. Target funding for training.
   - early career researchers
   - address needs due to special ed faculty shortage

Steps for IES

- Incorporated some suggestions into FY 2016 Request for Applications (RFAs)
- Consider new grant competitions (e.g., low-cost, quick turnaround evaluations)
- Address in future competitions

Methods Update

Additional methods work this year

- Adaptive Treatments and SMART Designs
- Multiphase Optimization Strategy (MOST)
- Cost effectiveness and Cost-Benefit analyses
- Effect Sizes for Single Case Research

Building Education Science

Looking across NCER and NCSER

- 376 IES funded research projects are related to other IES funded research projects

- 17% of all NCER & NCSER Development projects have received Efficacy awards
- 20% of all NCER & NCSER Efficacy studies are tests of IES developed interventions

Development
Development
48

Efficacy
Efficacy
22

Measurement
Measurement
11

Initial Project
Linked Project
68

What we've learned….

- We are supporting research that is building an evidence base
- We've confirmed science isn't always linear!
- Funding from the research centers has to date been at the front-end of the pipeline

Update on Grant Funding and Competitions

FY 2015

- Year to recover a bit from FY 2013 and FY 2014
- We limited our competitions to Special Education Research Grants (324.A) and Training for Early Career Development and Mentoring (324.B)
- Funded all applications rated Outstanding or Excellent

FY 2016

- We don’t have a budget yet, currently operating on a continuation

- We’re operating under the assumption that we’ll have level funding in FY 2016

FY 2016 Competitions

- Special Education Research Grants
- Research Training in Special Education
  - Postdoctoral
  - Early Career Development & Mentoring
  - Methods Training in Single Case Design
- Low-Cost, Short Duration Evaluation of Special Education Interventions

NCSER 324A – Numbers of Applications Reviewed and Funded FY2008-FY2016

NCSER Budget – Appropriation Amounts

NCSER Budget – New Awards

FY 2017

- Budget won't be final until it's released in early February
- Continuations will remain a priority
- Given continuations, we expect funds for new awards will be limited
- We expect we will need to target funding opportunities

Other Opportunities

NCER Competitions that fund those interested in Special Education

- Stats and Methods (includes Early Career component)
- Partnerships and Collaborations Focused on Problems of Practice and Policy
- Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of Education Policy and Practice
- Pathways to Education Sciences Training Program

Open Government Initiative

- Dept is proposing a new regulation that would require all copyrightable intellectual property created with Department grant funds to have an open license
- Goes beyond IES public access policy to products that can be used by schools
- The Department will be receiving comments on this proposed policy through December 18, 2015 at http://www.regulations.gov.

PI Meeting

- We have worked across the two research centers to make this a meeting you want to attend!
- Please fill out the evaluation form so we know what worked/didn't work
- Please come to the NCSER Forum on Friday at 9:45 – we are trying to create a venue for discussion among NCSER grantees

One more note….

- IES is moving December 18th!!
- All of IES will be on one floor!
- We will be just downstairs from OSEP!
- Phone numbers will be changed so email will work best until we get settled

Questions

I'll be at the poster session/networking session this afternoon, or

Joan.McLaughlin@ed.gov