

# 1. Provide an advanced organizer

- Include:
  - The proposal goal,
  - Project type,
  - Introduction to the problem
  - Purpose of the project
  - Specific aims
  - Constructs of interest

## 2. Describe the local context

- Describe the study context, policies and procedures used by partners, and the population
  - Example: This is how ELL students are identified in local school districts
  - This is how Tier 2 instruction is applied in the school
- Remember that not all educational settings and schools have the same issues
- You do not have to solve the national problem

### 3. Use clear and consistent terminology

1. Operationally define your terms,
2. Use consistent terminology for constructs,
3. Populations need to be well defined (operationalized)
4. Be careful to be clear about potential overlaps among constructs
5. Example: writing disability/dysgraphia; English Learners, Dual-language learners; at-risk students

## 4. Discuss how factors/constructs are associated

- Important for every type of award
- Be careful to be clear about potential overlaps among constructs
- Include factors that might change the nature of the relationship between other factors (i.e., mediators or moderators)
- It is especially important to consider how factors are under the control of the education agency

## 5. Connect your Significance and Research Plan

- Make sure the population you describe matches the population in your research plan.
- Make sure your constructs match the measures you include in your research plan.
- Make sure your theory/model matches your study design and research plan models

## 6. Stick to your topic.

- Provide both theoretical and empirical support for your research questions and hypotheses,
- But...
- Do not include extraneous variables
- Do not include variables you don't intend to measure
- Do not include hypotheses you don't intend to test

## 7. Highlight the practical application of the work

- Highlight your educational partners, partnerships
- How/why will this lead to better outcomes?
- Discuss how the study might impact schools or children
- Discuss how the findings might inform future research

\*More and more emphasis is being placed on this. There is larger focus timely dissemination of results in this year's RFA for special education. Even before that, there has been a larger focus on cost-effectiveness

## 8. Follow the RFA for the specific project type

- Requirements

&

- Recommendations for a strong application (in order if possible)



## 9. Include figures

- If you can afford the space, include a theoretical model or logic model
- This is obvious for initial efficacy or follow-up projects that ask for a specific theory of change model, but is also helpful for other project types
- Put it in text to build in white space and keep the reviewer from having to look in the appendices for everything
- Make sure the model matches the population, constructs, measures, and