Grant Title: INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES-SPECIAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROGRAM: SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER ON WORKING MEMORY INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES 84.324C

Funding Opportunity Number: CFDA Number: 84.324C.


Area of Research: Working memory interventions for students with disabilities.

Release and Expiration: Not listed.


Amount: Typical awards will be in the range of $1,000,000 to $2,000,000 (total cost = direct + indirect) per year.

Length of Support: Up to 5 years.

Eligible Applicants: Non-profit and for-profit organizations, agencies and colleges and universities.

Summary: The Institute supports special education research and development centers that are intended to contribute significantly to the solution of special education problems in the United States by engaging in research, development, evaluation, and national leadership activities aimed at improving the education system, and ultimately, student achievement. Each of the R&D Centers conducts a focused program of research in its topic area. In addition, each Center conducts supplemental research within its broad topic area. The Institute is establishing the Special Education Research and Development Center on Working Memory Interventions for Students with Disabilities (Working Memory Center) to support research that explicitly capitalizes on the growing body of cognitive research on working memory deficits and translates this research into education interventions for children with disabilities. The Institute intends for the Working Memory Center to improve student learning by developing instructional approaches or other innovative education interventions for students with or at risk for disabilities who have working memory deficits. Innovative approaches for improving instruction may involve instructional strategies to be implemented by teachers, instruction delivered through adaptive computerized tutoring, or instruction delivered through other innovative approaches. The interventions must be designed to be implemented in formal education delivery settings. The Working Memory Center will apply current research on reducing working memory task demands and/or improving working memory to improve learning of basic academic content and skills (reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies) or general study skills for children with disabilities or at risk for disabilities who have working memory deficits. Although development of interventions will comprise the majority of research conducted through the focused program of research, the Working Memory Center will also conduct studies intended to extend our knowledge of the role of working memory in learning academic content or efficacy studies to rigorously evaluate the effects of their interventions on student learning as part of their focused program of research. In addition to its focused program of research on developing interventions that are intended to improve academic outcomes, the Working Memory Center will conduct supplementary studies related to working memory and the improvement of education outcomes for students with or at risk for disabilities and engage in national leadership activities. For its focused program of research, the Working Memory Center is required to conduct research to develop and test interventions for students with or at risk for disabilities who have working memory deficits. The interventions will be designed to improve learning of academic content directly or to enhance cognitive functioning in ways that will improve learning of academic content. In addition, the interventions will be designed to be implemented in formal education settings. Applicants should also include either exploratory studies to extend our knowledge of the role of working memory in learning academic content or an efficacy study to rigorously evaluate the effects of their interventions on student learning.