

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

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 04/27/2010 03:24 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Lafayette Parish School System (U351D100082)

Reader #1: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Need for Project		
1. Need for Project	15	15
Significance		
1. Significance	10	9
Quality of Project Design		
1. Project Design	25	24
Quality of Project Personnel		
1. Project Personnel	10	9
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	20	20
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	17
Sub Total	100	94
Total	100	94

Technical Review Form

Panel #1 - Panel - 1: 84.351D

Reader #1: *****

Applicant: Lafayette Parish School System (U351D100082)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:
 - (a) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.
 - (b) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.

General:

Strengths: The proposed project schools are identified as having an average 68% free/reduced lunch rate, a poverty rate near 70%, and a low income level. The applicant cites local data regarding crime rates, student drug use, and academic failure. The applicant also makes a compelling case using information about segregated schools and the influx of students from areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The table that begins on p. 6 lays out the gaps and weaknesses in the project schools and outlines strategies that will address these gaps. Weaknesses: No weaknesses were noted.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:
 - (1) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.

General:

Strengths: The applicant outlines strategies that can be replicated to other LPSS schools and other school districts. Teacher coaching and family involvement are cited as examples of these strategies on p. 9. The applicant proposes creating a web portal to disseminate information.

Weaknesses: Beyond the web portal, there seem to be no plans to actively disseminate information about the project.

Reader's Score: 9

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:
 - (1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.
 - (2) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and

learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

General:

Strengths: The applicant has not only cited current research in the field but has obviously used the research to guide the development of the project. The applicant identifies four goals that are linked to larger educational goals of the project schools. Multiple regional and national partners with a history of success make it likely that this project will continue beyond the grant period. Weaknesses: On p. 11, it is unclear in goal #1 (increase student achievement in core academic subjects) if student achievement in the arts is included. Since goal #2 focuses on teacher content knowledge in the arts and student knowledge is not specifically addressed, goal #1 may be better articulated as "increase student achievement in core academic subjects: fine arts, language arts, math, science," etc.

Reader's Score: 24

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criterion:**(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.**
(2) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factor: The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

General:

Strengths: Having the Task Force transition into the Advisory Board is an effective way to build capacity and ensure continuity. On p. 26, the applicant identifies a project director, who will devote 100% of her time to the project. With many partners identified in the application, designated Partnership Coordinators are a necessary part of the team. Weaknesses: Arts educators already serving the project schools do not seem to be identified as part of the Arts Integration Teams.

Reader's Score: 9

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:
(1) 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.
(2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and Principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.
(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

General:

Strengths: The Advisory Board will meet quarterly to monitor the progress of the project and make changes as needed. A detailed timeline on p. 40 outlines milestones and the parties responsible for each. There are plans in place to compile feedback and adjust programming as necessary. Weaknesses: No weaknesses were noted.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.**
- (2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.**

General:

Strengths: The applicant will contract with EduShift to provide project evaluation. Evaluation is linked to GPRA measures. Project objectives are aligned to both these GPRA measures and the project goals. Performance evaluations combined with other data sources should give an accurate account of student growth in the target areas identified by goal #1. The applicant proposes to use a randomized controlled trial. Weaknesses: The explanation of the random assignment procedures on p. 35 is not clear. On pp. 37 and 38, it is unclear how assessment of arts learning for students will occur.

Reader's Score: 17

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 04/27/2010 03:24 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 04/27/2010 08:57 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Lafayette Parish School System (U351D100082)

Reader #2: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Need for Project		
1. Need for Project	15	14
Significance		
1. Significance	10	9
Quality of Project Design		
1. Project Design	25	24
Quality of Project Personnel		
1. Project Personnel	10	9
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	20	20
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	18
Sub Total	100	94
Total	100	94

Technical Review Form

Panel #1 - Panel - 1: 84.351D

Reader #2: *****

Applicant: Lafayette Parish School System (U351D100082)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

(a) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.

(b) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.

General:

Strengths: This application has systematically identified weaknesses in the schools along with proposed solutions (e6). The participating schools and their demographics are clearly laid out in the application (e2).

Weaknesses: While the need in this area is great, the proposed project targets less than a quarter of the over 4000 students (Budget Narrative e4).

Reader's Score: 14

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

(1) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.

General:

Strengths: A task force completed a needs assessment to which the results of this project would clearly address. The project also addresses the 2007 Louisiana Legislative Act, requiring the Board of Education to provide for the statewide implementation of a visual and performing arts curriculum in public schools (e8).

Weaknesses: While the web portal (e10) is an effective method of dissemination, reaching out to constituencies in face-to-face interactions at conferences or other education gatherings would be an important part of using the materials in other settings.

Reader's Score: 9

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

(1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.

(2) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

General:

Strengths: The logical progression of each stage of this project, from the pre-project needs assessment and literature review to the project design is a strength. (e11). The project is based on research that guides the process from the design of the curricular process to student engagement. The project design includes the creation of a curriculum team that will impact the district-wide elementary and secondary school curriculum. (e17)The Arts Immersion weeks will allow different core subjects to be a focus at different times.

Weaknesses: It is unclear how treatment teachers will be identified in the K-8 setting, and if there will be a mixture of classroom teachers and specific subject teachers from the upper grades. (e17)

Reader's Score: 24

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

- 1. Your comments and scores should address the following criterion:(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.**
(2) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factor: The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

General:

Strengths: The roles of various participants, from advisory board to master teachers, in the project process are clearly laid out.

Weaknesses: The application states that Julie Fox will be hired as Project Director, however no resume is attached.

Reader's Score: 9

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

- 1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:**
(1) 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.
(2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and Principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.
(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

General:

Strengths: When paired with the objectives, (e31), the timeline (e40) clearly defines project tasks and milestones. Student, parent, and teacher surveys allow a broad spectrum of participants to offer feedback on the project (e30). Portfolios will be both an effective method of evaluating progress as well as an important product for the student participants.

Weaknesses: None

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.**
- (2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.**

General:

Strengths: The evaluation plan strives to employ both quantitative and qualitative measures that accurately reflect project goals and offer useful information to project participants.

Weaknesses: Since all interventions will be considered part of the normal educational activities the school provides (e33), it is unclear how the students will be randomly selected and then paired with treatment teachers (e35). Recording student participation in arts integration activities in attendance logs and journals to assess project "dosage" would seem to be a time consuming task for teachers on a regular basis. (e38)

Reader's Score: 18

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 04/27/2010 08:57 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 04/27/2010 12:44 AM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Lafayette Parish School System (U351D100082)

Reader #3: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Need for Project		
1. Need for Project	15	13
Significance		
1. Significance	10	8
Quality of Project Design		
1. Project Design	25	20
Quality of Project Personnel		
1. Project Personnel	10	9
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	20	15
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	15
Sub Total	100	80
Total	100	80

Technical Review Form

Panel #1 - Panel - 1: 84.351D

Reader #3: *****

Applicant: Lafayette Parish School System (U351D100082)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

(a) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.

(b) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.

General:

Strengths:

Students here suffer many social ills from horrendous poverty and racially segregated communities.

Louisiana is in great need, and conditions are worse in Lafayette Parish (p.2).

Seven in ten students are failing both English and Math at one middle school, which apparently fails to engage them.

Schools are serving 1,300 students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

The district conducted a needs assessment followed up with a planning task force (p. 6).

The project will incorporate research-based curriculum that addresses Louisiana content standards (p. 6).

Weaknesses:

The table at the top of page 2 is erroneous in that you cannot get a meaningful number from averaging averages. Free lunch is still high at 64%, minority group membership at 66% and special education at 14%, the numbers produced by weighting and recalculating.

The applicant did not indicate if it is the two schools of choice that have exemplary growth, and the reviewer is not sure if the reference is to growth in numbers or in academic preparation. (p.4)

Reader's Score: 13

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

(1) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.

General:

Strengths:

The project includes prestigious partners.

Students will benefit from enrichment programs as well as from revitalized curriculum.

Benefits of the curriculum models will spill over to other areas of study.

Proposers will infuse culturally relevant arts enrichment for the Cajun students.

Professional development incorporates coaching and modeling.

Weaknesses:

The narrative does not demonstrate engaging the learner (p. 9).

The reviewer did not understand why the proposer will infuse other theme-based curriculum integration programs, (p. 10)

Teachers who need basic teaching skills might better start with core academics.

Reader's Score: 8

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

(1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.

(2) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

General:

Strengths:

The proposer is striving for an inclusive education environment (p. 11) in which students increase acquisition, retention and comprehension (p. 12).

Schools were identified based on commitment to the arts. (p. 14)

VTS has been demonstrated to improve student performance (p. 15), including special education students.

Teacher guides developed by the curriculum committee will suggest language, math, science, social studies and technology concepts to be included in every lesson (p. 16).

Partial implementation has proven fruitful at two magnet feeder schools.

Residual products will support project sustainability.

Weaknesses:

The reviewer is puzzled about why the task force examined gaps in the arts program when the students can't do math and English. (p. 11)

The narrative contemplates various increased skill levels for both teachers and students, but does not sufficiently portray how that will happen other than through a questioning process that happens to focus on art. The narrative did not make clear how the practicing artists will fully engage students in the creative process. (p. 13)

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criterion:(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(2) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factor: The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

General:

Strengths:

The Advisory Board will meet quarterly (p. 26), which should be sufficient to track progress and suggest corrective actions.

The project will have a 100% dedicated coordinator. (p. 26)

Weaknesses:

The proposer intends to search for solutions that break down language and cultural barriers, but makes no mention on recruiting bilingual personnel.

Reader's Score: 9

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

(1) 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.

(2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and Principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

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

General:

Strengths:

The Advisory Board has specified responsibilities (p. 28).

Students and parents will have opportunity for input.

There is a fulltime project director to oversee progress. (p. 29)

Weaknesses:

This is the first mention of student portfolios. It would help the reviewer to judge their value by providing a description of what will be in them. (p. 30)

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

(1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.

(2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

General:

Strengths:

The evaluator will have a thorough picture of how effective the new teaching techniques may be for student achievement.

The evaluators realistically anticipate attrition and can work within the given parameters.

Weaknesses:

The evaluation did not seem to be designed to feed useful, practical information back to the schools about helping teachers accomplish all that is to be expected of them.

It is unclear how random assignment of students will work, and why it is necessary.

Reader's Score: 15

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 04/27/2010 12:44 AM