

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

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 05/21/2010 02:09 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: New Leaders, Inc. -- , (U363A100134)

Reader #3: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Project Design		
1. N/A	45	45
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. N/A	25	25
Significance		
1. N/A	20	20
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. N/A	10	10
Sub Total	100	100
Total	100	100

Technical Review Form

Panel #14 - SLP Review Panel - 14: 84.363A

Reader #3: *****

Applicant: New Leaders, Inc. -- , (U363A100134)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed project consists of a comprehensive plan that includes a description of-

1. The extent to which there is a conceptual framework underlying the proposed research or demonstration activities and the quality of that framework.

2. The extent to which the proposed activities constitute a coherent, sustained program of training in the field.

3. The extent to which the proposed project is apart of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.

4. The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project.

5. The extent to which project participants are to be selected on the basis of academic excellence.

Strengths:

The applicant provides a detailed design and framework to meet the needs of new and continuing school leaders. Overall this is an outstanding proposal with all required elements.

Weaknesses:

None observed.

Reader's Score: 45

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers-

1. The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

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

Strengths:

This is a well designed project and program evaluation. It includes all required elements, including an external evaluator, continuous and ongoing feedback and discussions.

Weaknesses:

None observed.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project. In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors-

- 1. The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies.**
- 2. The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement.**
- 3. The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.**

Strengths:

It is obvious that success of this project will have a significant impact on the community and this project could become a model for replication. The applicant delineates very specific outcomes and changes that will help them to better prepare new supervisors - principals. The program activities are well designed and the outcomes are logically derived from implementation of this overall program

Weaknesses:

None observed.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors-

- 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. How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate.**
- 3. The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**

Strengths:

The applicant demonstrates that they have qualified staff and leadership to implement this project. The management plan delineates what and when and who will be responsible for project activities, and milestones.

Weaknesses:

None observed

Reader's Score: **10**

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 05/21/2010 02:09 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 05/18/2010 03:05 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: New Leaders, Inc. -- , (U363A100134)

Reader #2: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Project Design		
1. N/A	45	40
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. N/A	25	25
Significance		
1. N/A	20	17
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. N/A	10	10
Sub Total	100	92
Total	100	92

Technical Review Form

Panel #14 - SLP Review Panel - 14: 84.363A

Reader #2: *****

Applicant: New Leaders, Inc. -- , (U363A100134)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed project consists of a comprehensive plan that includes a description of-

1. The extent to which there is a conceptual framework underlying the proposed research or demonstration activities and the quality of that framework.

2. The extent to which the proposed activities constitute a coherent, sustained program of training in the field.

3. The extent to which the proposed project is apart of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.

4. The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project.

5. The extent to which project participants are to be selected on the basis of academic excellence.

Strengths:

The principal support and retention component of the proposed project is based on the Urban Excellence Framework (p. 2) and is an extension of current New Leaders program. These programs have a strong track record of principal preparation.

The Participants of the project must make a 6 year commitment to work in low performing schools. This will help ensure continuity of practice. Evidence of initial research on which to base the program goals. Goals aligned with the needs of diverse populations.

An effort to insure principal support and retention is seen in project goal 3 (p.8).

Weaknesses:

School leadership competencies a requirement for admission to the program. These competencies are built on NLNS requirements (p.2). Not much clarity on the process.

Reader's Score: 40

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

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

Strengths:

External evaluation that will add to the NLNS capacity- RAND is implementing an independent evaluation of the project (p. 3). This addition will enrich current data gathered by providing independent long-term research as well as formative data that will guide training improvements for principals. Student assessment as well as goal alignment will be addressed. The project will include data, which will be available to the public, regarding student growth.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Significance

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1. The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies.

2. The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement.

3. The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.

Strengths:

The proposal has connections with NLNS participants nationwide that result in systemic improvement and support due to the sharing of information project wide (p.25). The project would recruit, train and properly support principals.

The proposed project did a good job linking research to action (project activities and goals).

The success of this project would high light the connection between a healthy school system and effective principals. The project would be of specific interest to educators and policy makers (p.8).

Weaknesses:

It is implied that improved principal practice will positively influence teacher effectiveness, but not much description of how this would happen. How instruction would change is not discussed.

Reader's Score: 17

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors-

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. How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate.

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

Strengths:

The management plan appears adequate to achieve the objectives of the project. The executive and managing director positions seem to be held by individuals with the necessary experience to assure that the project is completed on time. There seems to be a director or manager whose duties aligned with each project goal.

The time line affords time for the participants to meet and discuss the project and offer suggestions for improvement. Through meetings, school visits and fund raising events, the Advisory Board members have an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other stakeholders.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 10

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Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 05/26/2010 05:17 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: New Leaders, Inc. -- , (U363A100134)

Reader #1: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Project Design		
1. N/A	45	45
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. N/A	25	22
Significance		
1. N/A	20	20
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. N/A	10	9
Sub Total	100	96
Total	100	96

Technical Review Form

Panel #14 - SLP Review Panel - 14: 84.363A

Reader #1: *****

Applicant: New Leaders, Inc. -- , (U363A100134)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

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 3. The extent to which the proposed project is apart of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.
 4. The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project.
 5. The extent to which project participants are to be selected on the basis of academic excellence.

Strengths:

The response to the criteria was strengthened as a result of the following:

Use of research-evidence based framework -- Urban Excellence Framework

Strong pilot research to support project framework and link to student achievement gains.

Use of research findings on highest performing schools and break through change schools drives decision making.

Link of project to rigorous, goal driven learning and teaching objectives

Goals to affect school culture -- modeling that sets tones of student, teacher, administrator expectations.

Strong alignments to teaching and learning and staff embedded in program

Logical and cohesive project structure.

Well-articulated selection criteria that matches program goals and expectations.

Weaknesses:

The response to the criteria was unclear and/or did not provide sufficient detailed information in the following areas:

Reader's Score: 45

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

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 1. The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures

that are clearly related to intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

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

Strengths:

The response to the criteria was strengthened as a result of the following:

Use of internal as well as external evaluation strategies.

Longitudinal study by Rand Corporation.

Broad categories of qualitative and quantitative data collection

Use of large database of variables to examine student achievement relative to participating project principals. Able to categorize by a variety of different angles to help identify problem areas as well as areas of strength.

Strong measures relative to student achievement data.

Weaknesses:

The response to the criteria was unclear and/or did not provide sufficient detailed information in the following areas:

In the project evaluation section, measures for principals appear to reflect self report measures or observation measures.

Unclear the process for collecting and analyzing the best practices data.

Unclear how the culture data will be addresses or collected

Reader's Score: 22

Selection Criteria - Significance

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2. The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement.

3. The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.

Strengths:

The response to the criteria was strengthened as a result of the following:

Strong link to with previous work to student achievement increases

Shows strong link of program to past and present policy in NYC schools

Project appears to have the potential for systemic change in urban settings.

Project appears to have a good link of research to practice and student achievement.

Weaknesses:

The response to the criteria was unclear and/or did not provide sufficient detailed information in the following areas:

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

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

Strengths:

The response to the criteria was strengthened as a result of the following:

Personnel appear to have strong background to the program goals and objective and have been involved in the pilot work. Logical and coherent timeline.

Weaknesses:

The response to the criteria was unclear and/or did not provide sufficient detailed information in the following areas:
Wonder if two visits per semester is enough to gather the observation data to address the strong component relative to the "practice" piece they discuss.

Reader's Score: 9

Status: Submitted
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