

Research Guidelines for 2020-2021

Introduction

One of the key strategies being pursued by the government to achieve inclusive growth is improving access to quality education. Although considerable resources have been allocated to education, there is still a need to ensure greater access to quality education and the success of every Filipino learner.

Various education initiatives have been undertaken by the government to improve the delivery of quality education. Both public and private schools have actively engaged in the implementation of relevant policies and programs of the government despite the challenges these institutions face. The prevailing issues and concerns of the education sector emphasize the importance of undertaking research to strengthen evidence-based planning, policy and program development, and decision-making.

Description

The Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC) has been engaged by the Department of Education (DepEd) to co-implement the GASTPE Program. One of the responsibilities of the PEAC is to propose and conduct research and evaluation studies on the Education Service Contracting (ESC), Teachers' Salary Subsidy (TSS), and SHS Voucher Program as well as on priority education-related issues.

The **Research and Innovation for Success in Education (RISE)** is a mechanism approved by PEAC to encourage the conduct of research on Philippine basic education by higher educational institutions and private educational associations with research capacity as well as research organizations with a proven track record in particular fields so as to generate knowledge on areas that affect Philippine basic education, particularly on the education policies and programs that aim to improve access to quality basic education. A Research Advisory Group is constituted by PEAC to recommend priority research areas, review the guidelines, and evaluate submitted proposals. The PEAC and DepEd approve the proposals for funding.

Research Priorities

The priority areas of research are those focusing on government assistance and subsidies that contribute to improving access, equity, and quality in basic education, specifically in the context of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education landscape.

Research topics shall be, but are not limited to, the following:

General

- Operationalizing public-private partnership programs that are identified in and provided for under RA 8545 and RA 10533
- Developing public-private partnership models that address the specific needs of a particular region or group of learners in different modes of delivery
- Determining the cost of provision in basic education
- Providing robust bases and developing a model to guide how subsidy amounts are determined
- Aligning assistance and subsidies with school viability and quality
- Improving policies and processes of assistance and subsidy programs
- Evaluating the impact of assistance and subsidy programs
- Identifying the unintended consequences of assistance and subsidies

Specific

- Assessing the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sustainability and vitality of private schools
- Evaluating the learning modalities adopted by the private schools in the implementation of the schools' Learning Continuity Plans
- Assessing the efficacy of measures adopted by the private schools to mitigate the digital divide
- Determining the implications of a paradigm shift in delivery on the quality of education provided by private schools
- Assessing teacher training programs towards redefining forms of teacher assistance during and after the pandemic

Proposals should lead to policy recommendations that have the potential to inform and improve delivery of basic education and learning outcomes as well as the planning, policy formulation, and implementation of the GASTPE Program.

Proponents should be guided by the indicative timeline of the vetting, approval, and award of the grant below.

Call for Proposals	July-September
Evaluation of Proposals by RAG	September
Approval of PEAC	September
Review and Approval of DepEd	October-November
Signing of MOA and Award of Grant	December-January

Eligibility of proponents

- Applicant must be a private basic education provider, higher education institution, educational association, or a research organization with track record and capacity to undertake research in an identified priority area.

The application may be submitted by a department, office or unit within the HEI, or by full-time school personnel (teaching or non-teaching), provided that the application is endorsed by the President of the HEI.

- For HEIs and educational associations, the principal investigator must be a full-time faculty member of the institution/member-institution and should have experience and expertise in the chosen research area.

Documentary requirements

- Application cover letter from the project leader or principal investigator, and signed by the President of the HEI/educational association or from the head of the research organization
- Project proposal (refer to the Guidelines for Concept Proposal) with the following attachments:
 - Implementation plan
 - Proposed budget
- Concise curriculum vitae of the researchers
- Photocopy of BIR Registration (BIR Form 2303) and/or photocopy of BIR Tax Exemption Certificate (if applicable) of the proponent

All documentary requirements should be submitted online to research@peac.org.ph and indicate "Research 2020-2021 Proposal – [Institution]" as subject of the email.

Evaluation criteria

An initial screening of the research grant applications is done using the following criteria: responsiveness to the research priorities; originality and innovation; products and results; scope and coverage; institutional commitment; personnel resources; project duration; and budget. The Research Advisory Group will evaluate the research proposals. A technical expert may also be invited to review the proposals.

The PEAC reserves the right to conduct a pre-award audit, which includes, but will not be limited to: 1) interview of proponents on research cost estimates; and b) review of proponent's financial status with regards to previous grant awarded.

Submission of application

Applications must be sent to the PEAC National Secretariat no later than May 31, 2020.

Vetting and approval process

All applications submitted within the set deadline will undergo a vetting and approval process set below.

1. Applications are subjected to an initial screening by checking and verifying eligibility and the completeness of the documentary requirements. Applications that are submitted late and incomplete will not be considered for further review.
2. Concept proposals will undergo an evaluation by the Research Advisory Group. Experts may be invited to do the review and proponents may be asked to present and defend their project proposals.
3. The Research Advisory Group will come up with a short list of research proposals.
4. PEAC will approve research proposals for the review and approval of DepEd.
5. The PEAC National Secretariat will send a formal communication to the proponents on the result of the vetting and approval process.

Research ownership

For commissioned studies, the research shall be co-owned by DepEd and PEAC.

For all other studies, the research shall be co-owned by DepEd and the proponent.

Project duration and funding coverage

For commissioned studies, the research funding will cover the full cost of the research project. The project duration should not exceed one year.

For all other studies, the funding will be for a one-year period. Furthermore, depending on the available funds, the funding shall cover any of the specified items under the 'Direct Cost', namely:

- Personal Services: honoraria to research team, experts/specialists
- Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses
 - Travel Expenses (related to data gathering and limited to local travels)
 - Survey Expenses

Implementation of the approved proposal

With the approval of PEAC and DepEd, the successful proponents will receive the Memorandum of Agreement between PEAC and the proponent for signature.

Disbursement of funds

Funds are disbursed following a schedule of releases indicated in the Memorandum of Agreement.

Reporting and dissemination

The proponent will submit to the PEAC National Secretariat the progress and final reports as well as the liquidation report of the funding received, including supporting documents, in accordance with the existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

The researchers will have to secure the permission of the owners of the research (see Research ownership in these guidelines) before the dissemination of the study.