

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
*Office of the State Superintendent of Education*



**Joint Public Oversight Roundtable on Education Research Practice Partnership Proposed Notice of  
Invitation**

**Testimony of  
Hanseul Kang  
State Superintendent of Education  
Office of the State Superintendent of Education**

Before the

Committee of the Whole  
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman  
and the  
Committee on Education  
The Honorable David Grosso, Chairman

Council of the District of Columbia

Room 412  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson and Chairman Grosso. My name is Hanseul Kang, and I am the State Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia. I am pleased to appear before you today for this public oversight roundtable on the on the notice of invitation for the Education Research Practice Partnership established by the “The District of Columbia Education Research Practice Partnership Establishment and Audit Act of 2018.”

Today, my testimony will discuss the approach we used in drafting the notice of invitation. I will then outline the contents of the notice of invitation and the immediate next steps to publish the notice and facilitate the submission process for proposals.

### **Notice of Invitation Development**

In drafting the notice of invitation, we kept several goals in mind. First, we needed to ensure it conformed to minimum requirements for the substance of the notice outlined in D.C. Official Code 37-785.03. Second, we drew from existing models and best practices in forming effective research practice partnerships. We used guidance from subject matter experts like the Data Quality Campaign,<sup>1</sup> the Council on Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), and the William T. Grant Foundation,<sup>2</sup> and drew from agreements drafted by other jurisdictions like Chicago, Baltimore, and North Carolina. Finally, we wanted to be sure to provide foundational context that would put all applicants on a level playing field with respect to information on our needs, expectations, and process.

### **Contents of the Notice of Invitation**

That framework led us to the draft notice submitted to the Council on Sep. 27, 2019. The notice of invitation is divided into three sections: (1) general information, (2) specific information describing the education research practice partnership envisioned by the statute, and (3) the proposal requirements.

The first section of the notice includes general information which provides prospective applicants with important context on the education practice partnership including background on the context of the education system in the District of Columbia, the broad purpose of a research practice partnership, and logistics of submitting a proposal.

The second section of the notice describes the education practice partnership’s mission and scope of responsibilities. It provides important context that describes the motivation for the partnership and a short description of the process that led to authorizing a partnership. It further describes the mission of the partnership and characteristics of an ideal partner. These characteristics include the need to possess a strong understanding of the challenges of a state education agency and public education systems, a commitment to enter the partnership for 10 years, a strong track record of presenting research of suitable rigor on urban public education systems, and the ability and a demonstrated track record of safeguarding student level data. The notice also describes the District’s responsibilities to the

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<sup>1</sup> [“Roadmap for Effective Data use and Research Partnerships between State Education Agencies and Education Researchers.”](#) Data Quality Campaign.

<sup>2</sup> [“Research-Practice Partnerships.”](#) William T. Grant Foundation.

partnership. This includes a broad description of how the partnership would be selected and how the District and the partner would enter into an agreement to begin its work.

The third section of the notice includes requirements of an applicant's proposal. Many of these requirements are prescribed in the law, and the notice includes footnotes citing to the specific statutory provisions. For each requirement, we provide descriptions of the information that would need to be addressed in the proposal.

### **Next Steps**

Next, I will outline the steps that we will take once we have received the Council's feedback on the proposed notice of invitation. First, the Mayor will issue the notice of invitation to the public within 30 days, and once that occurs the public will have 60 days to respond to the notice.

OSSE will create a page on its website with information pertaining to the notice. OSSE will hold a pre-application webinar for perspective applicants on a date to be determined. The pre-application webinar will walk through the notice of invitation and logistics for submission. During the pre-application webinar, OSSE will be available to answer questions on the content of the notice. Responses to questions from both the webinar and those submitted to our email inbox<sup>3</sup> for applicant inquiries will be published on this website page for all applicants to access. Proposals, including all supporting documentation, will be submitted to OSSE by 5:00 PM EST on the date 60 days after the issuance of the notice to the public.

### **Conclusion**

OSSE is committed to ensuring that stakeholders – parents, policymakers, advocates, and the general public – have access to high quality and actionable data on the performance of our schools. At OSSE, we recognize the importance of making policy decisions transparently and based on evidence. The notice requests critical information necessary to identify a strong partner for this work. We look forward to receiving feedback from the Council on the notice. I am prepared to answer any questions that you have.

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<sup>3</sup> The inbox for inquiries from prospective applicants is: [educationrppnoi@dc.gov](mailto:educationrppnoi@dc.gov)