Get the Facts

The Research Partnerships Program (RPP)
2022 Call for Proposals

Research Priorities

Research projects eligible for this call must be directly relevant to one or more of the following research priorities, and must focus on some or all grades from early childhood to Grade 12:

1. Learning gaps primarily at higher grades
2. Social-emotional wellness
3. Learning environments
4. Equity
5. Secondary data analysis of Alberta results in international and pan-Canadian studies

Topic Examples

Following are some *example* topics for each research priority. Other topics that fall under these priorities are welcomed.

Learning gaps primarily at higher grades
Research topics on learning gaps include, but are not limited to, learning innovations, learning recovery, blended learning, and on-line learning.

Social-emotional wellness
Research topics on social-emotional wellness include, but are not limited to, resilience, student or educator mental or physical health, social connectedness, and trauma-informed classrooms.

Learning environments
Research topics on learning environments include, but are not limited to, technology-enhanced learning, stakeholder engagement, and physical environment.

Equity
Research topics on equity include, but are not limited to, diversity and inclusion, supporting vulnerable learners, Indigenous education, gifted education, English language learning, and refugees.

Secondary data analysis of Alberta results in international and pan-Canadian studies
This research priority includes secondary analysis of data collected as part of the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP), the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), or the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). The aim is to enable innovative Alberta-focused analysis and interpretation of these datasets for use by stakeholders interested in improving educational outcomes. Funded analyses will focus on the most recent data only or on time trends that include the most recent data.

Recent international and pan-Canadian studies datasets
PCAP is a joint initiative of Canadian provinces and is based on common elements in their curricula. The major assessment domain in 2019 was mathematics; science and reading were the minor domains. The PCAP student assessment was accompanied by surveys of students, their parents, their mathematics teachers, and school principals. These surveys provide an opportunity to explore contextual information that can help explain differences in students' performance. PCAP data

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TIMSS 2019 assessed mathematics and science among Grade 4 students. Similar to PCAP, the TIMSS student assessment was accompanied by surveys of students, their parents, school principals, and math and science teachers. [TIMSS data](#)

PISA 2018 measured 15-year-olds' ability to use their reading literacy, mathematics and science competencies to meet real-life challenges. Reading literacy was the main focus of PISA 2018. In addition to the PISA student assessment, in Canada, a survey of school principals was also administered. Canada opted not to administer surveys of teachers and parents. [PISA data](#)

TALIS 2018 was a survey of teachers and school leaders in both junior high and high schools. The survey covered nine main themes: teachers' instructional practices, school leadership, teachers' professional practices, teacher education and initial preparation, teacher feedback and development, school climate, job satisfaction, teacher human resource issues and stakeholder relations, and teacher self-efficacy. Two additional cross-cutting themes were innovation, and equity and diversity. Alberta also added questions related to teachers' readiness to support Indigenous students. [TALIS data](#)

PIRLS 2016 assessed the reading literacy of Grade 4 students. Similar to PCAP and TIMSS, the PIRLS student assessment was accompanied by surveys of students, their parents, school principals, and language arts teachers. Note: 2021 data is scheduled to be released December 2022. [PIRLS data](#)

Grant Funding

Amount of grant funding available to each research project

The amount will be project-dependent, up to a maximum of $50,000 for studies under priorities 1 to 4, and $20,000 for studies under priority 5. Studies with shorter timelines are welcomed, as they may support the system's responsiveness. It is expected that the duration of a study and its budget will be positively correlated.

Eligible grant fund expenses associated with knowledge mobilization activities

Grant funds can be used to facilitate knowledge mobilization (e.g., conference fees, travel costs, publication expenses) if the activities occur before the contract end date. These knowledge mobilization expenses must be included in the proposal budget. Wide dissemination of findings is encouraged. However, funding for knowledge mobilization activities outside of Canada is not an eligible expense. Registration fees and travel expenses for conferences within Canada are eligible expenses.

Difference between in-kind support and matching funds

In-kind supports are non-monetary resources donated by partner organizations, such as a portion of a research team member's time to conduct tasks related to the research project or technology the organization already owns that will be used by the research team (e.g., software, computer equipment).

Funding that will be provided by one or more organizations to cover some of the research project costs (e.g., meeting room booking expenses, portion of a research team member's salary, funding of knowledge mobilization) is considered matching funds. Use of the partner organizations' spaces for research activities should be considered in-kind support.

Research Partners

Primary investigator

The primary investigator must be a faculty member at an Alberta post-secondary institution that conducts educational research. Doctoral students can be valued members of the research team but cannot be designated as primary investigators. Research assistant salaries are an eligible grant expense.

Appropriate school authority representatives

Appropriateness of school authority representatives will be dependent on the size of the school authority and on the focus of the proposed study. School authority representatives on the research team should:

- be knowledgeable about the research priority;
- be knowledgeable about their organization's research approval process and protocols; and
- have authority to speak on behalf of their organization on research matters.

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Most often, this means that the appropriate school authority representative will be at the superintendent or assistant superintendent level. The appropriate post-secondary institution representative will be at the Dean or Associate Dean level and the appropriate stakeholder organization representative will be the CEO or Executive Director.

School authority partner organization(s) involvement for studies focused on the fifth priority, secondary data analysis of Alberta results in international and pan-Canadian studies, can be in an advisory capacity, with minimal demands on their time, while maximizing the opportunity to gain Alberta-relevant analysis in their priority areas. Advisory capacity possibilities could be to provide input on research questions of value to the field, interpretations of analyses, and on the potential implications of the findings.

Research partner organizations

Applications must be submitted on behalf of the research partnership by a school authority or post-secondary institution representative. The person submitting the application on behalf of the partnership will be the key contact for future correspondence from Research Branch. The key contact does not need to be the primary investigator. The submitting organization must be a member of the Alberta Research Network, as per the Member Organizations List. Note that post-secondary members of the Network are sometimes faculties rather than the institution as a whole; in those cases, the submitting organization must be the faculty.

It is not required that all research partner organizations are members of the Alberta Research Network. For example, First Nations band-operated schools in Alberta are eligible partners.

Multiple perspectives are encouraged, and collaborating with research partners with knowledge or expertise on the research topic is beneficial. For example, the inclusion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit team members is strongly encouraged for Indigenous-related topics.

Organizations that are recipients of previous Research Partnerships Program grants are eligible for the current grant program.

Submission Requirements

Number of submissions

Organizations are not limited to one submission. However, Alberta Education expects a strong response to this call and we recommend focusing on quality research proposals over quantity.

Just as organizations are not limited to one submission, individual researchers are not limited to involvement on one research team.

Length and format for proposals

This call is for research proposals, not complete research plans. However, all the requirements noted in the *Research Partnerships Program: 2022 Call for Proposals* must be addressed. The maximum length for the Research Project Description section of the proposal is 5,000 words, excluding references.

APA (7th edition) formatting is expected for citations and references. Proposals can be submitted in either Word or PDF format. There are no other prescribed formats for proposals. To preserve equity, draft proposals will not be reviewed before submission.

Proposed budget

The itemized budget must clearly indicate the anticipated overall cost of the research project and a reasonable cost estimation for each item. Possible uses of grant funds include supporting collaborative planning, conducting the research, hiring research assistants, participating in research meetings hosted by the Research Branch, creating knowledge mobilization materials, and disseminating findings within Canada (e.g., conference fees, travel costs, publication expenses). The budget must clearly identify the research expenses that grant funds are being requested for as well as the expenses for which there are in-kind supports and/or matching funds.

Application for Conditional Grant Funding Form Completion

Only the research partner organization that is submitting the research proposal needs to compete the Application for Conditional Grant Funding form. If the research proposal is selected for funding, the research partner organization that submits the research proposal will be required to sign a conditional grant agreement before receiving the funding requested.

The Research Partnerships Program has specific proposal requirements clearly outlined in the Call for Proposals. The research proposal must be submitted as a separate document. Do not add content to Section E of the Application for Conditional Grant form.

Submission process

The proposal, letters of support, and the Application for Conditional Grant form must be submitted as separate attachments in a single email to EDC.RPP@gov.ab.ca. Please use the subject line: RPP CFP6 Submission. Email confirmation will be sent upon receipt of the proposal.

The Research Branch is not responsible for issues (technical or otherwise) that may result in a proposal not being received by the Call for Proposals closing date and time. Early submissions are encouraged. Only research proposals that meet all four eligibility requirements (as per the Call for Proposals) and are submitted on time will be considered for funding.

Submission deadline

Complete submission packages are due by 4:30 pm MST on December 1, 2022. Late and/or incomplete submissions will not be considered for funding.

Notification of successful applicants

The primary contact for teams whose applications are successful will be notified 10 to 12 weeks after the Call for Proposals closes, via an email from edc.rpp@gov.ab.ca.

Grant Recipients

Contract

Before funds are released, the research partner organization that submitted the research proposal on behalf of the partnership will be required to sign a conditional grant agreement.

Expectations and Deliverables

Successful grant recipients will be required to:

- participate in check-ins and feedback conversations with the Research Branch
- provide timely communication to the Research Branch throughout the term of the contract, including quarterly updates
- make presentations at Alberta Education meetings
- submit a research plan
- submit an interim research report (not applicable to secondary-data analysis priority focused studies)
- submit a final research report
- submit a final financial statement

Deadlines for the above items will be informed by the timelines of successful proposals.

Questions

For clarification or questions about the Research Partnerships Program's 2022 Call for Proposals, contact Dr. Belina Caissie, Senior Manager, Research Branch at Belina.Caissie@gov.ab.ca.

Please include "RPP CFP6 Information Request" in the email's subject line. Responses can be expected within three business days; it is strongly recommended that clarifications be sought well in advance of the submission deadline.

Before Hitting 'Send' on Your Submission

Have you:

- ❑ Addressed the email to Belina Caissie via EDC.RPP@gov.ab.ca?
- ❑ Entered the subject line: RPP CFP6 Submission?
- ❑ Attached all required documents?
  - ○ Application for Conditional Grant Funding,
  - ○ Proposal, and
  - ○ Letters of Support

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