Supplemental Response

To Proposal to Create a Research Practice Partnership for the District of Columbia

Submitted by the Urban Institute on behalf of itself and the members of the proposed District of Columbia Education Research Collaborative: American University's School of Education, Bellwether Education Partners, the Brookings Institution, D.C. Policy Center, EmpowerK12, Georgetown University, George Washington University's Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, Howard University's School of Education, Mathematica, Raise DC, Trinity Washington University, the University of the District of Columbia, the University of Maryland, and the University of Virginia's EdPolicyWorks.

December 2020

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide supplemental information to the selection committee. The 15 member organizations of the proposed District of Columbia Education Research Collaborative (hereafter, "the Collaborative") remain committed to supporting student success and school improvement in DC through the formation of a Research Practice Partnership (RPP).

Much has changed since we submitted our initial proposal in February, including both the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and a renewed national reckoning with anti-Black racism. The Collaborative members met virtually in August 2020 to discuss how the proposed RPP's work will need to evolve in response to these developments, so that we are ready to hit the ground running if our proposal is selected.

We discussed how best to leverage the expertise of the organizations that compose the proposed Collaborative to help ensure an equitable and effective response to and recovery from the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic poses to education in the District. We identified potential strategies and research priorities that can form the starting point for discussions with the Advisory Committee and city agencies if our proposal is selected. And perhaps most importantly, we identified the need to add equity to our core values. Though our proposal identified equitable student outcomes as a key goal, by elevating equity to a core value, we are committing to centering racial and socioeconomic equity in the research whenever possible; to holding ourselves accountable to considering the effect research might have on different racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups; to intentionally looking for ways to bring diverse voices into the process; and to ensuring that everyone involved with the partnership contributes to and experiences an equitable and inclusive environment.

We believe that an RPP is needed in the District now more than ever, and we look forward to answering any additional questions at the virtual question-and-answer session later this month.

1. D.C. Code §38-785.04 charges an advisory committee to provide intellectual guidance to the research practice partnership, and D.C. Code §38-785.05 outlines responsibilities of the partnership. Please provide a plan about how the partnership will onboard advisory committee members regarding their responsibilities. Specifically, what steps will you take to arrive at the 5-year research agenda with the advisory committee?

The Advisory Committee is critical to the RPP's success.

The Collaborative's overarching Advisory Committee goal is for committee members to be the primary champions of our work and mission. Based on the appointment requirements of D.C. Code §38-785.04, we expect advisory members to possess a diverse set of educational expertise and experiences as well as represent nearly every education stakeholder group (e.g., parent, teacher, school leader, district leader, state leader, policymaker, operations staff). Such diversity often brings differing views of research priorities and interpretation of research results. Yet, we anticipate the development of a research agenda to be primarily driven by consensus and for Advisory Committee members to support the dissemination of the Collaborative's work products.

We will aim to achieve consensus by building trust and fostering a culture of equity. Research on other RPPs shows that having a clear understanding of roles, developing a common language, and ensuring everyone has an equal voice are critical to the success of such partnerships and the research they produce.[1] The Collaborative's goal will be to establish a culture of trust, collaboration, and equity from the very beginning.

Following best practices from other RPPs and the Regional Education Laboratories, which similarly codevelop research agendas, we will begin by working to build relationships with and among committee members and to ensure the Advisory Committee and the Collaborative share a common understanding of the RPP's purpose and of the roles of the different partners.[2] We will spend initial meetings getting to know the committee members, introducing them to the RPP, and developing a shared framework and shared goals for the work.

Once we have laid the groundwork, the Collaborative will lead the Advisory Committee through the process of developing a research agenda, facilitating conversations about observed needs or problems of practice; educating members about what research and data already exist in an area and about what questions research can answer; and helping to develop research questions that are achievable given the data and expertise available to the Collaborative and that will provide practitioners with actionable findings.

Though the precise activities and sequence will depend on the operating norms the Advisory Committee establishes for itself, the schedule below represents a potential sequence of activities we'd undertake to guide the Advisory Committee in the development of a research agenda over the course of six meetings held during the first year of the RPP (see question 3 for a proposed timeline).

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[1] https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2332858419858635#articleShareContainer
http://researchandpractice.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/BuildingEquity_Oct2015.pdf
https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2332858419849595#articleShareContainer
http://researchandpractice.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Value-Mapping_Nov2015.pdf
[2] https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.rice.edu/dist/0/6401/files/2017/02/Developing-a-Coherent-Research-Agenda-tu4oce.pdf

- Meeting #1:
  - Advisory Committee establishes norms, elects chair(s).
  - Opportunities for members to get to know each other and provide an overview of their knowledge of education in DC (we will also offer optional small group meetings between meetings 1 and 2 for members to get to know each other and Collaborative staff).
  - Introduction to RPPs and discussion of vision and goals for DC's RPP.
- Meeting #2 (approximately one month after Meeting #1):
  - Defining roles, values, and goals.
  - Overview of RPP research and what it means to develop a research agenda.
  - Facilitated conversations about problems of practice and areas of need.
- After Meeting #2, Collaborative staff will circulate a list of proposed topics surfaced during the meeting for member feedback to make sure that the list is complete and topics are described accurately. Collaborative staff will also compile background information on topics such as summaries of prior research conducted on these topics in DC.
- Meeting #3 (approximately one month after Meeting #2):
  - Review shared goals and values to ensure the development of the research agenda remains rooted in a shared vision for the District's schools.
  - Committee members discuss the list of topics with the goal of coming to consensus on prioritization, such as the 3 to 5 highest-priority topics or sorting the topics into tiers (e.g., immediate priority, priority over next one to two years, priority over next three to five years).
  - By the end of Meeting #3, the Advisory Committee will have a prioritized list of potential research areas and topics.
- After Meeting #3, Collaborative staff will circulate a prioritized list of research areas/topics. Staff will also assist Advisory Committee leadership with assigning members to subcommittees corresponding to each topic area (if the Committee's governance decisions allow for the creation of such subcommittees). Members will be asked to begin brainstorming research questions that relate to the proposed topics.
- Meeting #4: (approximately one month after Meeting #3)
  - Review shared goals and values to ensure the development of the research agenda remains rooted in a shared vision for the District's schools.
  - Answer outstanding questions.
  - Subcommittees meet to brainstorm questions within each topic area.
  - Questions are brought to the full committee for input and discussion. Members discuss which questions are most urgent.
- After Meeting #4: Collaborative circulates list of questions, along with any resources for forming research questions. Advisory Committee members will be asked to think about how to refine broader lines of inquiry into actionable research questions.
- Meeting #5 (approximately one month after Meeting #4):
  - Subcommittees meet to refine and prioritize research questions.
  - Collaborative researchers will help members refine questions as needed and will provide insight into how long various projects might take, what type of evidence they might yield, and what potential barriers might be. This information will help members prioritize research questions, including identifying some potential "quick wins" that are most likely to be high impact and straightforward to execute.

- After the subcommittee meetings, Collaborative staff will synthesize questions and priorities into a draft research agenda that is circulated to committee members for review and initial feedback.
- Meeting #6 (approximately one month after Meeting #5):
    - Review shared goals and values to ensure the development of the research agenda remains rooted in a shared vision for the District's schools.
    - Final discussion of the research agenda and any outstanding comments or questions. Members of the Collaborative will facilitate a conversation, ensuring every member of the Advisory Committee has a chance to share feedback.
    - Discussion of potential next steps and roles (of both Collaborative and Advisory Committee members) in executing the research agenda.
- After Meeting #6, Collaborative staff will finalize the research agenda based on member feedback, circulating to the Advisory Committee as needed. Collaborative staff will also facilitate any additional mechanisms for gathering feedback, such as a public comment period, that the Advisory Committee may select. Once the agenda is finalized, it will be posted on the Collaborative website.

As stated above, we expect to determine the precise timing and scope of activities in coordination with the Advisory Committee, once appointed. We will also carefully consider the logistics of meetings—time and place, virtual or in person—to allow for the greatest participation possible, and we will create communications channels for the Advisory Committee to connect with the Collaborative outside of scheduled meetings. We are confident that the Collaborative members' expertise and experience in community engagement and convenings will allow us to be flexible and responsive to the Committee's needs.

In addition, though we have modeled this process on the work of other RPPs, it is worth noting that unlike others, the DC RPP will commence amid a pandemic that has caused tremendous upheaval in the education system. In addition to building relationships and shared understanding in the early Advisory Committee meetings, we are keen to hear from Advisory Committee members what challenges feel most urgent in light of COVID-19. Depending on interest from Advisory Committee members, we will look for early ways to support students, families, and schools in recovering and rebuilding from the pandemic. We will look to other RPPs for examples of the kind of work that could be done, and work hand-in-hand with the Advisory Committee to explore the possibility of a COVID-19-specific research agenda or other opportunities to provided needed research in a timely manner.

Beyond the initial onboarding and development of the research agenda, the Collaborative will support the Advisory Committee as it navigates differences and provides feedback on RPP projects and products. As described in the proposal (pp. 19–20), we will do this by connecting members to RPP leaders around the country, hosting informational sessions on critical RPP-related topics, providing one-on-one support to members, and holding "train the trainer" sessions that give committee members the confidence they need to support their community's stakeholders in understanding and translating the RPP's work.

2. Based on your submission in response to the notice of invitation, how will you manage your research partners? If any changes to your partners have been made, please identify those changes. Identify the steps you will take, if selected, to actualize your proposal as it pertains to research partners in the first year of the partnership?

We have proposed an organizational structure that balances the need for clear leadership and management provided by staff at a single organization with the enormous benefits of drawing on education researchers and practitioners from diverse organizations. The Collaborative will be led by a management team at the Urban Institute, with strategic guidance provided by a Leadership Council consisting of one representative from each member organization. Specific roles and responsibilities of Urban, Collaborative members, and the Leadership Council are detailed on pp. 20–21 of our proposal.

The only change to our partners since the submission of our proposal is that Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP) and Raise DC joined together in April 2020, creating a new strategic vision to act as a regional backbone for collaboration and investment on behalf of vulnerable children and youth and their families. VPP + Raise DC brings the depth and breadth needed to align partners, resources, and actions to make data-informed decisions that will improve conditions for young people in the region.

If our proposal is selected, we will take the following steps over the first year:

- As soon as possible after our proposal is selected: Urban will convene the Leadership Council with the goal of making an initial set of decisions about the Council's routines, norms, and expectations, including the frequency and location of meetings and the possible creation of an executive committee that would meet more frequently and work more closely with the executive director.
- Within one month of selection: with input from the Leadership Council, Urban will draft and post a job advertisement for the position of executive director. Urban will seek assistance with recruitment by asking Leadership Council members (and other key stakeholders, such as Advisory Committee members) to suggest potential names.
- Within six months of selection: with input from the Leadership Council, Collaborative staff will draft a set of policies and procedures for RPP research projects, building on the Vision for the RPP described on pp. 5–6 of our proposal and in our response to question 8 below. These documents will set clear expectations for how researchers will partner with practitioners on RPP projects. The Council will also agree on a process by which additional organizations that agree to meet these expectations can seek to join the Collaborative and by which individual researchers at nonmember organizations can partner on RPP projects.
- By one year following selection: Collaborative staff, led by the executive director, and the Leadership Council will take stock of the first year of activities and make any needed adjustments to the Council's routines and norms and the Collaborative's expectations and processes.

3. The research practice partnership may need to evolve over time to build capacity and to find expertise to answer questions in the research agenda. What steps will you take to identify, recruit, and retain additional researchers beyond your identified organizations? How will you engage potential researchers from other proposals solicited from the notice of invitation?

The Collaborative is committed to identifying and recruiting researchers who are best positioned to partner on RPP research projects, including those who are not affiliated with member organizations. Researchers affiliated with other proposals solicited from the notice of invitation will be invited to join our Collaborative immediately following the selection decision (as stated on p. 21 of our proposal). Within the first year, the Collaborative's Leadership Council will agree on a process by which additional organizations can seek to join the Collaborative and by which individual researchers at nonmember organizations can partner on RPP projects.

When project needs require expertise that cannot be met by researchers affiliated with Collaborative members, we will actively recruit additional researchers through outreach to individuals in our networks and professional organizations (such as the National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships, the Association for Education Finance and Policy, and the American Educational Research Association). We will prioritize the recruitment of scholars from diverse backgrounds who have experience partnering with education policymakers and practitioners. Researchers who successfully collaborate on RPP projects (as gauged by their adherence to the Collaborative's policies and norms and achievement of project success metrics codeveloped with the Advisory Committee) will be invited and encouraged to participate in future projects. Retention strategies could also include inviting the institutional homes of high-impact research partners to join the Collaborative, providing the researcher with a seat on the Leadership Council and a voice in deciding the future of the Collaborative.

4. Provide an implementation plan that outlines the steps you will take to form the partnership, convene the advisory committee, and move towards the completion of a five-year research agenda in year one. For years two and three, outline the steps that you will take to prioritize projects in the agenda and show clear progress towards the statutory objectives of the partnership.

The table below documents the steps we will take in year one to form the partnership, convene the Advisory Committee, and develop the five-year research agenda. (More details about each Advisory Committee meeting and the research agenda development process are included in the answer to question 1.) This timeline assumes that the selection of the RPP is announced by January and the Advisory Committee selected by February. Should those dates shift, our dates will shift accordingly, though we intend to begin this work as soon as possible.

Though details may change—particularly as the pandemic evolves and we better understand when in-person meetings may be possible—these represent the basic steps we know we must take to accomplish the goals of the RPP in year one.

Proposed Collaborative Activities in Year One (Assuming January 2021 Start Date)

Activity	Outcome	Timing	Lead Partner
Convene the Leadership Council and RPP advisers	Decide on frequency and timing of meetings;[3] assign immediate tasks (including fundraising, hiring, drafting guidelines)	January 2021	Urban
Reach out to other RPPs to learn how they are dealing with COVID-19	Identify how RPP can be useful in current moment even as it is being stood up	January 2021	Urban
Establish Collaborative team at Urban	Clear point of contact for RPP at Urban	January 2021	Urban
Begin fundraising	Identify likely project funders; secure start-up funding	January 2021 (ongoing)	Collaborative
Begin planning architecture of data archive	Data archive in place for initial project(s)	January 2021 (ongoing)	Urban
Begin setting up master research services agreement	Agreement in place before research begins	January 2021 (ongoing)	Collaborative
Invite other NOI respondents to join the Collaborative	Finalize list of year one partners	January 2021	Collaborative
Convene Advisory Committee (Meeting #1)	Advisory Committee develops norms and elects chair(s); Collaborative facilitates introduction to RPP and discussion of vision and goals for RPP	February 2021	Advisory Committee, with Collaborative
Post ad for an Executive Director	Hire within three months of selection	By February 2021	Urban

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[3] The Advisory Committee is required to meet at least six times per year. This could be accomplished by meeting every other month throughout the year. But in the interest of accelerating the start of the RPP's work, we suggest that the Advisory Committee meet every month from February to June 2021. In addition, we see value in holding more than the six legislatively mandated meetings in year one to facilitate close collaboration and to expedite the work of building the research agenda and laying the foundation for the RPP. We have outlined here what a process could look like with seven meetings but will work with Advisory Committee members early in the year to establish a schedule and cadence that ensures full participation while advancing the work.

Host virtual community meetings, potentially tailored to different stakeholder groups (parents, students, teachers, administrators, nonprofits, etc.)	Introduce the Collaborative and the Research Practice Partnership; field community questions	Spring 2021	Collaborative
Advisory Committee Meeting #2	Establish shared language, introduce concept of a research agenda, identify areas of need	March 2021	Advisory Committee, with Collaborative
Establish goals for the RPP and metrics of success for first year the partnership	With input from the Advisory Committee, Collaborative will develop overarching goals, as well as a timeline, process, and measures for evaluating the success of the RPP in its first year	By April 2021	Collaborative, with Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting #3	Prioritize areas of need	April 2021	Advisory Committee, with Collaborative
Advisory Committee Meeting #4	Brainstorm questions within identified topic areas	May 2021	Advisory Committee, with Collaborative
Develop measures of success for individual projects	Establish a framework for evaluating the success of individual projects and for understanding whether projects lived up to our vision of collaboration, equity, independence, transparency, and quality	By June 2021	Collaborative, with Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting #5	Develop and prioritize research questions	June 2021	Advisory Committee, with Collaborative
Develop and launch RPP website	Website launched	By July 2021	Urban

Establish criteria for additional organizations to join the Collaborative	Document what it means to be a Collaborative member and how new members are chosen and onboarded	By July 2021	Collaborative
Establish clear criteria that RPP projects must meet in order to move forward to the Advisory Committee	Clear processes and standards for approving RPP projects	By July 2021	Collaborative
Advisory Committee Meeting #6	Finalize research agenda	August 2021	Advisory Committee, with Collaborative
Publish research agenda to the RPP website	Agenda should be published before work plans are developed	August 2021 (or within one month after the agenda is finalized)	Collaborative
Hold a series of community meetings to introduce and discuss the research agenda	Generate community buy-in; field questions; identify potential partners	Fall 2021	Collaborative
Advisory Committee Meeting #7	Get Advisory Committee feedback on first set of projects	November 2021	Advisory Committee, with Collaborative
Set up initial MOUs	MOUs in place before the end of year one	December 2021 (ongoing)	Collaborative
Develop Collaborative data quality and transparency standards, including an open science policy	Standards documented and published on the RPP website before research begins	By December 2021	Collaborative
Annual report	Publish on Collaborative website and submit to DC Council	December 2021	Collaborative

The two most critical factors to success in the first year are building community trust and showing immediate benefit during a tremendously challenging time. In pursuit of the latter goal, and in parallel with these steps to build the RPP infrastructure and research agenda, we will explore with the Advisory Committee the possibility of undertaking several short-term, high-impact projects in 2021 that will be immediately relevant and help to build a case to the public and to funders for the larger research agenda. Given the urgency of the work, particularly in light of the pandemic, we hope to explore in tandem with the Committee what early work the RPP might undertake to help schools and students. Though we won't necessarily have the full infrastructure in place immediately, we will consult with the Advisory Committee to ensure transparency, collaboration, and quality throughout the process.

At the end of year one, we will measure the RPP's performance against the initial metrics we developed with input from the Advisory Committee and will solicit honest, constructive feedback from the Committee and other stakeholders. (These metrics will also be published on the RPP site in the annual report.) With that feedback and our initial metrics as a baseline, we will use the first part of year two to engage the Advisory Committee in a process of establishing short- and medium-term goals that support the longer-term goals and vision. We will also develop metrics of success (for example, attendance at workshops, feedback from stakeholder surveys, and demonstrated use of RPP research) that support those goals. We will publish these goals and the metrics we will use to evaluate them to the RPP website and regularly check in with the Advisory Committee to discuss progress and gather feedback.

Years two and three will also be when we begin to scale up the number of research projects, in alignment with the research agenda and in coordination with the Advisory Committee. Though specific criteria and processes will be developed by the Collaborative in year one, at a minimum we will engage with the Advisory Committee at the beginning, middle, and end of every project, seeking their feedback at every stage. We will also engage with key community stakeholders throughout the life of the project.

Outside of the individual research projects, we will check in with the Advisory Committee at every scheduled meeting to ensure our projects still reflect their priorities and to understand what new priorities are emerging. At regular intervals determined in conjunction with the Advisory Committee, we will reexamine the five-year agenda with the Advisory Committee and discuss whether we need to make changes, whether that's adjusting priorities or adding new topic areas.

5. To make this partnership work, consensus and buy-in are important.

- *Outline the steps that you will take to build relationships and buy-in with the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE), local education agencies, school leaders, teachers, students, and parents to identify needs for data. Describe the steps that you will take to set up routines and processes with these actors to meet your statutory objectives.*
- *Outline the steps that you will take to build consensus within the advisory committee. Specifically, provide a detailed description of how the research agenda would be created in coordination with the advisory committee.*

We agree that consensus and buy-in are critical to the success of the RPP. We believe our commitment to collaboration, independence, equity, quality, and transparency, as well as Collaborative members' extensive experience partnering with DC education agencies (see pp. 10–12 of our proposal), will provide a stable foundation for building relationships and buy-in. We will also pursue three key strategies to build relationships and buy-in with key stakeholders, including OSSE, LEAs, school leaders, teachers, students, and parents.

First, we will partner closely with the Advisory Committee, which is the primary statutory mechanism for our collaboration with all of these stakeholder groups with the exception of students. We expect Advisory Committee members will consistently and actively engage with the Collaborative during their terms of service and that Collaborative researchers will be responsive to input from the Advisory Committee.

As described in question 1, we will help build consensus within the Advisory Committee primarily by facilitating a culture of trust and equity. We will do this by taking time to develop relationships with and among Committee members, understand their expertise, and listen. We will also provide members with resources that ensure they are working from complete and accurate information about key topics relevant to the Committee's work, such as best practices for RPP research and the educational landscape in the District. In our response to question 1 above, we outline a possible set of steps by which the Collaborative can support the Advisory Committee's creation of a research agenda.

Second, we will build relationships and buy-in with individual education policymakers and practitioners at OSSE, LEAs, and individual schools through RPP research projects. As described on p. 6 of our proposal, every project team will include one or more practitioners who will work with the research team to ensure findings will be useful to the project's target audience. These collaborations will help researchers understand needs for data and evidence and ensure products are as useful as possible to the education community, while building buy-in for the value of the RPP's work. We will rely on both the Advisory Committee and our own networks to facilitate those relationships.

Third, we will draw on the Collaborative's expertise in community-engaged research (described on p. 9 of our proposal) to include the input, participation, and reflections of the people and communities at the heart of the issues studied. This approach to research will provide opportunities to connect directly with students and their families and create opportunities to both communicate data and research findings and seek input on future needs for data and research.

6. Describe your vision for collecting, archiving, and sharing data with consortium members. If helpful, you may reference a model currently used by another RPP that has merit. What steps will you take in year 1 to move towards establishing this vision for collecting, archiving, and sharing data? Be sure to include your steps for conducting an inventory of the data, examining the strengths and weakness of the data, and rectifying any weaknesses.

Our plan for collecting, archiving, and sharing data with consortium members will build on the model pioneered by the Chicago Consortium and legislated by the RPP Act to create a data archive that supports RPP projects (more detail can be found on pp. 22–23 of our proposal). The data archive will be stored on secure Urban servers and exchanged via secure means. Subsets of the data will be made available to research teams that are specific to the scope of the project and require recipients of data to meet strict standards for data security.

In year one, we will implement this model through the creation of a master research services agreement with the District government and series of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with data providers. These legal agreements will specify agreed-upon arrangements between Urban and the data providers for how data will be stored, used, and shared. Collaborative staff will work with Urban's technology and data science team to design the data archive following best practices in the field.

Once we begin to receive data, we will implement a robust process for conducting an inventory of the data, examining strengths and weaknesses, and rectifying any weaknesses. This process is described on pp. 25–26 of our proposal and includes convening a technical advisory committee composed of senior data managers from LEAs and OSSE to help researchers understand on-the-ground realities that affect data quality, implementing a comprehensive internal statistical flagging and resolution process, and harmonizing and documenting data so that all users understand what items are included in the data and any limitations.

7. Pre-registering studies and analysis is important to ensuring transparency of projects. Describe the open science/pre-specification/pre-registration expectations for your consortium. Be sure to describe at what point in the project this step would be required and your plan for sharing this information in a transparent fashion.

We aspire to the standard of open science and public transparency set by The Lab @ DC, which creates pages for every research project that include links to their Open Science Framework (OSF) page and pre-analysis plan. Open science protocols, including pre-registration and pre-analysis plans, are important to ensuring the transparency of research projects and credibility of findings.

All Collaborative research projects will include a pre-analysis plan that is shared with the Advisory Committee for feedback as part of the regular project review process. Within a month after each project is approved via a new or updated MOU with the relevant data providers, a public project page including a link to the pre-analysis plan will be created on the Collaborative's website. All research products resulting from these studies will report results of all analyses specified in the pre-analysis plans and identify any additional analyses that were not originally specified in the pre-analysis plan. The studies will be linked to on the same project page as the pre-analysis plan to provide full transparency.

If our proposal is selected, we will flesh out this approach into an open science policy that will be adopted within the first year of the partnership. This policy will lay out clear standards for pre-analysis plans and additional steps that might be taken for certain kinds of studies (e.g., the pre-registration of randomized experiments). We will seek input from The Lab @ DC, as well as draw on resources made available by the Center for Open Science, the Urban Institute's pre-registration template (which comes out of Urban's data quality assurance process and is based on the OSF pre-registration standard), and the Standards for Excellence in Education Research developed by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

8. Describe the consortium's expectations for research partners. Specifically, what mindsets, values, and beliefs are important for partners to possess? What processes, commitments, and documentation will you put in place to ensure that all research partners and their work reflect those expectations?

Our mission as a Collaborative is to provide everyone with a stake in the success of DC students with robust, accurate information to support decisions that improve outcomes and increase equity. Realizing this vision requires that all members of the Collaborative be committed to equity, independence, collaboration, and transparency.

The Collaborative will make sure all RPP work directly addresses priorities identified by the DC education community so it is useful to people working in schools and communities to improve student outcomes, is complementary to existing efforts by education agencies and other stakeholders, focuses on advancing educational equity, and leverages the expertise and independence of research partners and practice partners.

As the Collaborative's managing entity, Urban will ensure every project undertaken by RPP researchers is designed in tandem with a practice partner, is responsive to the Advisory Committee's agenda, meets high standards of quality and collaboration, and is disseminated effectively to key stakeholders. In particular, Collaborative members share the belief that community engagement should be woven into all projects through mechanisms that ensure everyone has a voice. We believe deeply that engaging communities in the research process will foster culturally relevant research; lead to more effective programs, services, and policies; and empower the community.

These expectations are described in greater detail on pp. 5–6 of our proposal and include the following:

- Every project is borne from a demonstrated community need and is complementary to existing efforts by education agencies and other stakeholders
- Researchers engage community stakeholders throughout the project, not just at the beginning and the end, in part by including one or more practitioners on every project team
- Projects are improvement oriented and focus on advancing educational equity
- Findings are disseminated in ways that make them actionable for policymakers and educators

These expectations will be formalized into policies and procedures drafted by Collaborative staff, with input from the Leadership Council, during the first six months of the partnership. These will include procedures for evaluating the success of every project, based on whether it is useful to the DC education community and how closely it was centered around the values of equity, independence, collaboration, and transparency. These internal evaluations will provide formative feedback to researchers and will also be a factor in Collaborative decisions about future matchmaking of research and practice partners.

9. What procedures will be followed by all members of the consortium to ensure results are accurate (e.g. code review, independent re-analysis, auditing, etc.)? In addition, what steps will the consortium take so that the public can assess their findings transparently?

All RPP research will be subject to rigorous quality assurance procedures throughout the life of the project. We conceptualize three key phases of quality assurance (additional information on quality assurance procedures is provided on p. 25 and in appendix I of our proposal):

1) Before data are collected or analyzed, the research team and Collaborative staff jointly identify experts to assist with the quality assurance process. The research team drafts the research design and pre-analysis plan, which are shared with the Advisory Committee for feedback and ultimately approved by Collaborative leadership.
2) Once the analysis is complete, one of the experts identified in step one assists with code review, including replication of results using the code created by the research team.
3) Research products are reviewed prior to publication by one of the experts identified in step one to ensure they accurately describe research results.

Transparency is a core value of the Collaborative. All public documents related to each project will be linked to from a single project page on the Collaborative's website, including a short description, pre-analysis plans, and research products. Links to data and statistical programming code will also be included for projects that draw on publicly available data.

We will carefully consider the best way to maximize the transparency of studies that use data that cannot be shared publicly, such as sensitive student-level information. At a minimum, researchers will carefully document all data manipulation and statistical analysis decisions and include their contact information in all public reports so that members of the public can contact them with any questions about the data or methodology. We will also investigate additional possible steps to further increase transparency and replicability, including creating a procedure to allow for third-party independent replication, building the data archive in such a way as to regularly mark versions of the data (so studies can refer to specific versions of the data), and storing restricted code along with instructions for replication at a trusted institution.[4]

More broadly, we will build comprehensive outreach strategies, including data walks, presentations, and training sessions, that ensure the public is aware of and can access new research and is supported in interacting with and evaluating the data.

10. If selected would you consider changing your data security plan to a cloud-based system, that 1) stores data-centrally, 2) provides credentialed access to only specific researchers based on data use agreements, and 3) houses relevant analytical tools (r, python, stata, etc.) so that data never need to leave the secure environment?

Yes, we would gladly consider adopting a cloud-based system if it is acceptable to the data providers. Urban's technology and data science team has the skills and cloud expertise in-house to build such a system. The team has built in the past and currently maintains similar data systems, which store data centrally in a powerful, secure central data system; restrict access via a governance process to allow time-bound access to specific researchers; and accommodate a range of programming languages, including R, Python, Stata, and SAS. We note that we would invest significant resources and attention in creating mechanisms to provide non-Urban researchers with access to such a system in a way that ensures a high level of security given the sensitive nature of these data.

If our proposal is selected, we commit to discussing a cloud-based option with OSSE and other data providers as we draft the master research services agreement and initial MOUs.

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[4] For examples, see https://www.aeaweb.org/journals/data/faq#access and https://social-science-data-editors.github.io/guidance/Requested_information_hosting.html.