

## A LOOK UNDER THE HOOD

The original 49 winners of the Obama administration’s Investing in Innovation competition are about halfway through their grants and in the middle of evaluating how well their ideas are working to improve student achievement. Research-plan highlights for the biggest grant winners include:

WINNER	AWARD	PROJECT	EVALUATOR	RESEARCH QUESTIONS	METHODOLOGY
KIPP FOUNDATION	\$50 million	Train 1,000 future principals of KIPP and non-KIPP schools; increase KIPP school openings by 50 percent	Mathematica Policy Research	As KIPP scales up, what is the effect on student achievement? What do KIPP’s practices look like at school, regional, national levels?	Randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental design, case studies
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY	\$45.6 million	Train 3,690 new Reading Recovery teachers, 15 new teacher leaders	University of Pennsylvania	What is the effect of Reading Recovery on student achievement?	Multisite randomized controlled trial, regression discontinuity design, teacher interviews
SUCCESS FOR ALL FOUNDATION	\$49.3 million	Add up to 1,000 schools to its whole-school turnaround network, expand training, operate more cost effectively	MDRC	How does Success for All affect reading outcomes? What is the quality of implementation? To what extent is technology used?	Cluster randomized trial, hierarchical linear modeling
TEACH FOR AMERICA	\$50 million	Grow teacher corps by more than 80 percent, to 13,500 teachers, train majority so they are rated “highly effective”	Mathematica Policy Research	What are features of the scale-up implementation, and was it successful in increasing TFA teacher corps? Are new members more effective than non-TFA peers in terms of student achievement?	Randomized controlled trial and implementation study
ACHIEVING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING	\$20.2 million	Expand K-6 STEM program through new regional professional development centers	Point Park University	What is the effect on professional development, student achievement, student self-efficacy, and development of professional learning communities?	Quasi-experimental design, constant comparative method, case studies
CHILDREN’S LITERACY INITIATIVE	\$21.7 million	Implement “model classrooms” in 39 randomly selected schools; work with 456 K-3 teachers	American Institutes for Research	What is the effect on student achievement and teacher instruction? What is the cumulative impact over multiple years?	Randomized controlled trial
COUNCIL FOR OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION	\$20.3 million	Implement “Using Data to Inform College Access Programming” in 6 high-needs schools to increase college enrollment	Educational Testing Service	What is the effect on academic performance, rigorous coursetaking, retention and promotion rates, and postsecondary enrollment and completion? What are the school-level effects, including on staff use of data?	Quasi-experimental design, including matched-comparison group and growth modeling, and a comparative short interrupted time-series
DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$25.1 million	Implement “collaborative strategic reading” (CSR) program in middle schools, with a focus on English-learners	SRI International	What is the effect on student achievement?	Quasi-experimental study using teacher-level random assignment
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY	\$28.5 million	Provide sustained, intensive science-teacher professional development in 47 districts in partnership with 6 universities	University of Virginia and Oregon State University	How is the project implemented? How does it promote positive outcomes for teachers and students?	Randomized controlled trial
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY	\$30 million	Implement whole-school reforms to improve graduation rates in 41 middle and high schools in 13 districts	MDRC	What combination of reforms improves graduation rates to 80 percent and reduces by two-thirds the number of middle school students sent to high school behind grade level?	Randomized controlled trial
NEW SCHOOLS FOR NEW ORLEANS	\$28 million	Launch or turn around 19 schools in New Orleans and 8 in Tennessee, help develop 3 new charter-management organizations in New Orleans	CREDO at Stanford University	What is the effect on student performance? What is the effectiveness of charter school organizational development and project expansion?	Quasi-experimental study, school reviews, longitudinal matched sample, and a performance-management rubric
NISWONGER FOUNDATION	\$178 million	Use dual-enrollment, online, and Advanced Placement to improve college and career readiness in 29 rural high schools	CNA Education	Does the program increase enrollment and success in rigorous high school courses and improve graduation, college-enrollment and college-persistence rates?	Quasi-experimental study using matched schools identified through propensity score modeling
PARENTS AS TEACHERS NATIONAL CENTER	\$14.3 million	Expand Baby Family and Child Education program for prenatal to age 3 to 22 Bureau of Indian Education schools	Research and Training Associates	Does the program identify and remediate developmental and language delays before school entry? What are the effects on pre-K and parents’ knowledge? Does program participation predict elementary school achievement?	Quasi-experimental design using a matched comparison group
PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION	\$12.8 million	Expand summer reading program in 20 North Carolina districts and evaluate existing programs.	Northwestern University	What is the effect on reading scores? Which version of the program is the most cost effective?	Randomized controlled trial
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION	\$25.5 million	Evaluate and refine a program in 3 states that builds school-based leadership teams to improve science instruction	University of Memphis, Center for Research and Educational Policy	What is the relationship between inquiry-based science instruction and science-based learning?	Randomized controlled trial and case studies
TNTP	\$20.8 million	Work in 7 cities to expand teacher recruitment/preparation program	American Institutes for Research	What are the effects on teacher content knowledge and instruction, and on student achievement?	Quasi-experimental designs, including nonequivalent and matched comparison group design and a teacher value-added analysis on test scores.
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, eMINTS NATIONAL CENTER	\$12.3 million	Improve professional development in middle schools serving 10,500 students, 240 teachers	American Institutes for Research	What is the effect on student performance in math and language arts, and does an intensive technology add-on boost performance even more?	Randomized controlled trial
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY	\$15.3 million	Extend school year by 25 days in K-3, create smaller classes, in four districts in New Mexico	Center for Persons with Disabilities, Utah State University	What is the cost-effectiveness of the program? How does it affect student outcomes?	Multisite randomized controlled experiment
WESTED TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	\$18.2 million	Use the Reading Apprenticeship model of literacy instruction to reach 2,800 teachers, 400,000 students	Impaq International, Empirical Education Inc.	How does the program improve literacy instruction, change high school students’ reading behavior, and increase achievement in science, history, and reading?	Randomized controlled trial and a formative evaluation