A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF ATTAINMENT MEASURES

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is commissioning a systematic review of attainment measures for children and adolescents aged 6-18 in literacy, mathematics and science.

BACKGROUND AND AIMS

The EEF's mission is to raise attainment of 3-18 year-olds. To date, the EEF has funded 194 evaluations to test 'what works' in improving pupils' attainment. To test the impact of a programme, evaluations depend on reliable and valid measures to assess attainment. In about two-thirds of EEF funded projects to date commercial assessments have been used. In order to inform future decisions and build a better understanding of appropriate measures to assess children's attainment we will commission a systematic review of available attainment measures for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

This work will partly build on previously commissioned work. Specifically, the review of measures to assess 0-6 year-old children's language, literacy, numeracy, and social and emotional development (Dockrell et al., 2017). Based on their findings a searchable database of all measures was created and, where available, a description of their psychometric properties were included (Early Years Measures Database). The EEF has also commissioned a review of measures of non-academic and essential skills of school-aged children, which was incorporated into the SPECTRUM database. The aim is to expand this work and produce a review of available attainment measures for children beyond age 6. Given that the vast majority of EEF evaluations are conducted in primary and secondary schools this will be of great importance for future EEF evaluations. However, we hope this review and the associated online database will be relevant to a broader research community and moreover, help teachers and schools choose the best available attainment measures for their pupils.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

We expect a systematic review of attainment measures to identify and evaluate available measures for pupils aged 6-18 in the following domains: literacy, mathematics and science. The findings from the review will be incorporated into an online searchable database of measures, which builds on the two available databases (as mentioned above). The aim is to create a database that is of use for future evaluations, but also for teachers and schools. The measures database may include (but is not restricted to) the following information:

- The specific construct the test measures
- Psychometric test properties
- Information on age groups for which the test is appropriate
- Sample size, country and year of standardisation
- Practical considerations, such as required qualification in order to administer the test, time necessary for administration, and cost ratings
- Test format (including online/paper, adaptive, multiple choice)

- Information on how commonly the test is used and how well it aligns with the UK curriculum, including correlations with national tests (if available)

We are also open to recommendations as to how information from previous EEF evaluations can be incorporated into the measures database. The EEF data archive currently contains about 100 evaluations, about half of which deployed commercial tests to assess children's attainment. This dataset provides a unique opportunity to analyse test properties of at least some of the measures included in the database.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should submit a proposal to the EEF. Proposals should be no more than 2000 words, excluding references. In the proposal please include the following:

- Objectives of the review, including research questions and rationale for why these are important
- Your proposed approach to conducting the systematic review, including a description of how the measures will be identified, selected and appraised (including clear inclusion criteria)
- For the measures database, please specify the information that can be made available using your approach, and how this will help evaluators, teachers, and schools select appropriate attainment measures
- If you plan to incorporate information from previous EEF evaluations, please include a section describing the information (i.e. test properties) you plan to include and your approach to analysing the relevant data
- The relevant experience of the team. Specifically, your credentials for undertaking the review, your knowledge in the subject matter and expertise in the proposed methodology
- A detailed budget with justification for time spent on the research

The deadline for applications is **Friday 8th November at 5pm**. Please send your proposal to Diotima.Rapp@eefoundation.org.uk. All proposals will be reviewed by the EEF, please see summary of scoring criteria attached. We will be appointing a team on **Friday 15th November.**

We will finalise the specification with the successful team and the final report will be peer reviewed and published on the EEF website.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
ITT SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF ATTAINMENT MEASURES, OCOTBER 2019

BIDS WILL BE SCORED USING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. **Relevant experience of core project team and understanding of topic area (30%)**
a. The extent to which the proposed team demonstrates a track record of delivering similar reviews
b. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates an understanding of the topic area and key issues for the project
2. **Methodology and approach (40%)**
a. The suitability of the proposed scope of the review for answering the research aims and objectives.
b. The suitability of the proposed approach to identify, select, appraise and synthesise measures to deliver against research aims and objectives
c. The suitability of the information that can be made available in the measures database
d. If applicable: The suitability of the proposed approach to assess test properties of attainment measures using data from previous EEF trials and how this information can be incorporated into the measures database
3. **Value for Money (30%)**
a. Detailed cost of your proposal and how this demonstrates value for money

b. **BIDS WILL BE EVALUATED USING THE SCALE BELOW:**

Scoring criteria	
0	Totally fails to meet the requirement - information not available
1	Meets some of the requirements with limited supporting information
2	Meets some of the requirements with reasonable explanation
3	Fully meets the requirements with detailed explanation and evidence
4	Exceeds the requirements with extensive explanation and evidence