

Promising and Practical Strategies to Increase Postsecondary Success

Following is an overview of the announcement by the Education Department that has been slightly reformatted and shortened. The complete announcement is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/01/30/2012-1963/promising-and-practical-strategies-to-increase-postsecondary-success#p-3> Potential submitters are strongly encouraged to carefully study the complete announcement via the above web link.

Summary

The Secretary of Education (Secretary) invites institutions of higher education (IHEs), non-profit organizations, States, systems of higher education, adult education providers, researchers, and institutional faculty and staff, or consortia of such entities, to provide the Department of Education (Department) with information about promising and practical strategies, practices, programs, and activities (promising and practical strategies) that have improved rates of postsecondary success, transfer, and graduation.

The Department is most interested in obtaining information about strategies that emphasize the quality of what students learn and timely or accelerated attainment of postsecondary degrees or certificates, including industry-recognized credentials that lead to improved learning and employment outcomes. Information provided in response to this Request for Information (RFI) will be posted on the Department's Postsecondary Completion Web site so it can be shared, commented on, and discussed by anyone.

Previous efforts to improve outcomes from postsecondary institutions have included improved student support services, early college and middle college programs, successful remediation programs, open educational resources (that is, resources that are made freely available to students as a substitute for commercial, proprietary learning materials), distance and tele-presence courses, pay-for-performance scholarships and financial assistance, nontraditional course schedules and sequences, and peer support. The Department invites submissions that provide current information on the implementation of these strategies and any other promising and practical strategy that they believe has helped to improve postsecondary success, transfer, and graduation.

Organization of the Submission

The Department is interested in receiving documents and reports that include the following information. This list of items is illustrative only; submitters may also address

other issues that they believe are appropriate to the promising and practical strategies they describe. The objective is to present a detailed description of the promising and practical strategy so that someone from another institution or agency could easily understand the strategy and implement it. There is not a minimum or maximum page limit for the submission. To aid readability for reviewers, use one-inch margins, 12-point font, and single-space the document.

1. On the cover page of the submission, provide the formal title of the strategy and provide detailed information about the submitter (*mandatory for all submissions*).
 - a. Name and address of his or her institution, consortium, or affiliation, if any. If the submission is from a consortium of institutions, the submission should identify all members of the consortium but provide only the name of one contact person for the consortium. The submission should include contact information for the consortium's executive director so he or she can confirm authorization for the submission.
 - b. Name, title, mailing and email addresses, and telephone number of a contact person for his or her institution or consortium or affiliation, if any.
 - c. Contact information (name, title, phone number, and email address) for an officer of the institution or an official of the submitting entity who is authorized to approve the submission. The Department will contact the officer to confirm authorization for the submission.
2. After the cover page, restate the formal title of the practice or strategy at the top of the page and provide a brief one-paragraph abstract that provides an overview of the information discussed in the submission.
3. Provide a clear description of the college completion obstacle addressed, including the dimensions of the problems or obstacles targeted by the intervention.
4. Explain the theory of action that provides the basis for the promising and practical strategy.
5. Provide a history of how the promising and practical strategy was developed.
6. Describe the evidence that supports the effectiveness of the strategy. The Department is particularly interested in strategies, practices, programs, or activities supported by outcome data or for which evaluations have been conducted that can support any conclusions the submitter makes about the strategies described.

- a. Describe the method used to measure the outcomes of the promising and practical strategy, and of any evaluations of the strategy, where available, including references to published or related studies and links to the relevant data or evaluation.
 - b. Discuss any factor or factors that made measuring success difficult and how they addressed those factors.
 - c. Demonstrate how the promising and practical strategy is supported by data on outcomes. If a strategy described in a submission does not have extensive outcome data, submit evidence that the proposed strategy, or one similar to it, has been attempted previously, even if on a limited scale or in a limited setting, and yielded promising results.
 - d. Costs of implementing the promising and practical strategies, both overall and on a per-participant basis.
7. Discuss any difficulties or challenges that arose during the implementation of the promising and practical strategy and of any adjustments that the institution or organization made in response to those challenges.
8. Describe the factor or factors the respondent believes were most important to the success of the promising and practical strategy. This could include the participation of a particular individual in the implementation of the strategy or some other reason that goes beyond the design of the activity undertaken.
9. Describe the elements of the promising and practical strategy that did not work, including a discussion of why an element did not work and what could be done to change the activity in question in the future.
10. Suggest how other institutions might best replicate the promising and practical strategy and what potential concerns could make replication difficult.
11. Provide a detailed discussion of any Federal regulatory or statutory requirements or other laws, rules, or regulations that made successfully implementing the promising and practical strategy easier or more difficult. If none, simply indicate that fact.
12. Select a short list of meta data tags (keywords) to categorize the submission. These will help others find the information by searching through the Department's web site that contains all approved submissions. The keywords or tags identified should be linked to, and accurately reflect substantial components of, the strategies, practices, programs, or other activities described in the submission.

Following is a list of standard keywords the submitter is encouraged to use. Submitters are strongly encouraged to limit using a total of no more than eight keywords. If other keywords are needed not listed below, limit them to no more than three words and a total of 28 characters. Following these steps will make it easier to find information more quickly and accurately through a database search of the Department's web site.

- *Accelerated Learning*
- *Achievement Gap Closure*
- *Adult Education*
- *Affordability*
- *Assessment Technology*
- *Badges*
- *Basic Skills*
- *Blended Learning*
- *Block Scheduling*
- *Career Pathways*
- *Certificate Attainment*
- *Civic/Community Engagement*
- *Civic Learning*
- *Cognitive Tutors*
- *Community of Practice*
- *Competency-Based Learning*
- *Contextualized Learning*
- *Cost Savings*
- *Data Collection/Use*
- *Degree Attainment*
- *Developmental/Remedial Education*
- *Digital Materials*
- *Dual Degrees*
- *Earn and Learn*
- *Efficiency*
- *Employer Partnership*
- *Course Articulation*
- *Student Services*
- *Game Design*
- *Improving Achievement*
- *Industry-Driven Competencies*
- *Industry-Recognized Credentials*
- *Job Placement*
- *Learning Assessment*
- *Learning Communities*
- *Mentoring*
- *Mobile Devices*
- *Modular Curriculum*
- *Momentum Points*

- *Non-Traditional Age Students*
- *On-the-Job Training*
- *Online Teaching/Learning*
- *Open Educational Resources*
- *Paid Internships*
- *Part-Time Students*
- *Pay-for-Performance*
- *Persistence*
- *Personalized Instruction*
- *Productivity*
- *Real-Time Online Interactions*
- *Registered Apprenticeships*
- *Retention*
- *SCORM (Sharable Content Object Reference Model)*
- *Self-Paced Learning*
- *Simulations*
- *Skill Assessments*
- *Stackable Credentials*
- *STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)*
- *Technology-Enabled Learning*
- *Time to Degree*
- *Transfer and Articulation*
- *Tuition Reduction*
- *Underrepresented Students*
- *Virtual Environments*
- *Web-Based Learning*

Due date: Submissions received by April 30, 2012 receive priority review.

Send submissions to: Attach the submission document to an email sent to collegecompletion@ed.gov. To help ensure accessibility to all interested parties, all submissions comply with the requirements of section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or be submitted in an electronic format that can be made accessible, such as Microsoft Word. They will accept submissions in any electronic or written form provided, but submissions in forms that are not Section 508 compliant and not accessible will not be posted online. Instead, they will index these submissions and make them available in an accessible format upon request.

Alternatively, mail or deliver submissions to Dr. David Soo, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20006.

For further information: Contact Dr. David Soo at the Education Department, (202) 502-7742, david.soo@ed.gov