

Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness (JREE)

Call for Special Issue on Federally Funded Research on Educational Effectiveness

Overview

To date, the federal government has been the largest funder of scientific research on the effects of educational interventions. However, federal cuts have created serious challenges for education research. Contracts and grants that support the production of new evidence have been cancelled. The What Works Clearinghouse has substantially scaled back its reviews of causal evidence in education. The budget and scope of the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC)—a national repository of education research—has been downsized, making it harder for education researchers to disseminate their findings.

In response to this changing landscape, the *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness* (JREE) is inviting submissions for a special issue. Instead of focusing on a specific topic area, the special issue will publish findings from federally funded education research on educational effectiveness. The special issue will accept articles that fit within the scope of any of JREE's three sections: (1) Evaluation, (2) Meta-Analysis, or (3) Methodology. See [the journal's webpage](#) for descriptions of these areas. We encourage submissions of empirical research regardless of whether the main estimates are positive or statistically significant.

In the special issue, JREE will also publish invited commentary on the federal government's role in educational effectiveness research. Commentaries are invited on the federal government's role in (1) generating causal evidence on the effects of educational interventions and (2) supporting the use of this evidence in policy and practice. Submitted commentaries should look “backwards” and “forwards,” reflecting on the history of the federal government's role in educational effectiveness research and providing recommendations for what that role should be in the future. Finally, when possible, authors are encouraged to incorporate examples of instances when causal evidence in education led to important changes in policy or practice.

Authors interested in publishing in the special issue are encouraged to submit a proposal. Submitting a proposal does not guarantee an invitation to submit a manuscript. Submitting an invited manuscript does not guarantee that JREE will publish it: submitted manuscripts will be subject to JREE's usual peer review process. If JREE accepts more submissions to the Evaluation, Meta-Analysis, and Methodology sections than the special issue can

accommodate, the journal will select exemplars for the special issue and publish the remaining submissions in regular issues of the journal.

Proposal Submission

For submissions to the Evaluation, Meta-Analysis, or Methodology sections, proposals should provide or indicate:

- One or more federal funding sources for the research on which the proposed manuscript is based (i.e., federal agency, grant or contract number)
- The section of the journal to which the manuscript would be submitted (Evaluation, Meta-Analysis, or Methodology)
- Links to conference papers or study reports related to the proposed manuscript
- A structured abstract of up to 500 words.

For the Evaluation section, structured abstracts should include the following information:

1. Title
2. Background/Context
3. Research Questions
4. Setting and Participants
5. Data and Methods
6. Results
7. Conclusions/Implications/Significance

Meta-Analysis and Methodology proposals may structure their abstracts differently.

For submissions of commentary on the federal role in education research, proposals should include a short bio covering the author's prior experience and an abstract of up to 500 words describing the author's planned commentary. The abstract should summarize key recommendations that the commentary will make.

Proposal submissions should be emailed to jree.editor@gmail.com with the subject line "JREE Special Issue on Federally Funded Research."

Anticipated Timeline

Our goal is to publish the special issue in 2027. To achieve this goal, we have set an aggressive timeline for the authors, reviewers, and editorial team. Authors are encouraged to submit completed or almost completed research: we even encourage submissions that reformulate or repackage findings that are in the public domain (e.g., a conference paper or study report posted online) but that have not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

To expedite the publication process, JREE will not ask authors to conduct new analyses unless the Editor deems it necessary to meet the journal's standards.

Stage in the Publication Process	Deadline or Target Date
Proposal submission	May 1, 2026
Decision to accept or reject proposal	May 19, 2026
Submission of invited manuscript	August 31, 2026
Feedback on initial submission	October 7, 2026
Resubmission of invited manuscript	November 6, 2026
Feedback on resubmission	December 4, 2026
Submission of final manuscript	January 11, 2027
Final decision about publication of manuscript	February 1, 2027

Questions?

Please contact the Editor via email at jree.editor@gmail.com.