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## Research for School Improvement Towards Excellence (RSITE) Program

### Application Guidelines 2017-2018

#### **Rationale:**

Today's educators are faced by increasing expectations about their roles as the Philippine education system responds to the demands of a fast-changing global society with new initiatives, policies, and programs. In the private education sector, a number of schools still face the challenge of recruiting and retaining effective school leaders and teachers who are critical to school improvement efforts. Pursuing graduate studies is an opportunity for those in the profession not just to deepen their knowledge and enhance their leadership or pedagogical competence but also to develop their skills for reflective practice and research on-the-job. In supporting the graduate research undertaken by school leaders and teachers in private schools, a school-based approach is adopted wherein individual development is linked to school improvement needs.

#### **Description:**

The Research for School Improvement Towards Excellence (RSITE) is a program of assistance developed and implemented by PEAC to encourage the development of the private education sector by providing support to school improvement in private schools.

Specifically, the goal of the RSITE is to support school administrators and teachers who are writing their thesis or dissertation that addresses school needs and thereby improves educational delivery, and to build a community of education practitioners who will work towards an innovation-driven improvement of private schools in the country.

#### **Grant value:**

Each grant will subsidize the thesis and dissertation writing for P40,000 and P80,000, respectively, within the period of up to 12 months.

#### **Research topics:**

Research topics for the RSITE are preferably, but not exclusively, focused on these areas: school governance and leadership, educational management and systems development, curriculum development, effective teaching and learning, technology in education, assessment and evaluation, and school-based professional development.

Priority is also given to studies that will look into the programs and projects implemented by the PEAC through its National Secretariat at the school level such as the implementation or impact of the Education Service Contracting (ESC) Program, Teacher Salary Subsidy (TSS) Program, Certification Program, SHS Voucher Program, In-Service Training (INSET) for Administrators and Teachers, and Open High School Program (OHSP), among others.

**Who can apply:**

- Must be a Filipino citizen.
- Must be an active school administrator or faculty member of a private educational institution; priority is given to those who work in basic education of GASTPE-participating schools.
- Must have completed the academic requirements of a master's or doctoral degree.
- Must have an approved research proposal at the time of the application and have not yet undertaken oral defense.

**Application requirements:**

- Grant application cover letter from the applicant and endorsed by the school head
- Fully accomplished online grant application form.
- Recommendation letter from the thesis/dissertation adviser which also states that the proposal has been approved.
- Soft and hard copies of the approved research proposal and research schedule.
- Copy of the latest registration form indicating enrollment in thesis/dissertation writing
- Concise curriculum vitae of the applicant.

**Conditions of the grant:**

- The grantee should acknowledge PEAC in the final thesis or dissertation and any version of the research or part of it that is published.
- The grantee should submit soft and hardbound copies of the final thesis or dissertation.
- Write a journal article for consideration in the Philippine Education Research Journal (PERJ).
- If requested by the PEAC National Secretariat, the grantee will present a paper based on the thesis or dissertation in a forum organized or identified by the PEAC National Secretariat.
- The grantee should complete the thesis or dissertation within a year.
  - Request for a one-year extension, if justified, may be approved on a case to case basis, but in no case shall additional funding be granted. The letter should be endorsed by the adviser and sent to the PEAC National Secretariat one month before the end of the grant period.
  - Refund of the amount received will be required for non-completion of the thesis or dissertation within the prescribed period of the grant. The repayment period will be within one year.

**Evaluation criteria:**

Applications submitted will be assessed using the following criteria:

- Responsiveness to PEAC priorities
- Potential to contribute to school improvement
- Potential to contribute to professional improvement
- Capability to complete research within the prescribed grant period

**Submission of application:**

Application requirements must be sent to the PEAC National Secretariat no later than May 31, 2017.

### **Selection Process:**

All applications submitted within the set deadline will undergo a screening process set below:

1. Applications are subjected to an initial screening by checking and verifying the eligibility and documentary requirements. Applications that are submitted late and incomplete will not be considered for further review. The PEAC National Secretariat will not follow-up applications with incomplete requirements.
2. Applications that passed the initial screening will undergo an evaluation using the criteria indicated in this guideline. Applications will be shortlisted.
3. The PEAC National Secretariat Executive Director decides on which applications to approve.
4. The PEAC National Secretariat will notify successful applicants by email. The list of RSITE beneficiaries will also be posted on the PEAC website.

### **Execution of grant:**

The grantee shall receive the agreement for signature within one month from the time that the successful applicant has been announced and notified.

### **Disbursement of funds:**

Funds are disbursed following a schedule of releases below.

- 50% of the grant amount upon signing the grants agreement
- 25% of the grant upon submission of a letter from the adviser attesting that the thesis or dissertation is ready for presentation and defense
- 25% of the grant amount upon submission of soft and hardbound copies of the final thesis/dissertation and journal article based on the thesis/dissertation.

