CALL FOR PROPOSALS:
MINI-GRANTS USING NERD$ A SCHOOL SPENDING DATA ARCHIVE

The Edunomics Lab and the Massive Data Institute at Georgetown University are pleased to announce a mini-grant competition to support research using NERD$ (National Education Resource Database on Schools) our new school spending data archive. Projects may address a broad range of questions related to education policy and practice, including but not limited to: equity, segregation, instructional practices and interventions, school finance, political economy, teacher labor markets, and school choice.

This competition has dual purposes to 1) generate awareness of the archive and potential uses through research and analyses, and 2) obtain feedback on the dataset and user interface to influence the final stages of development.

Opportunity
Grants of $5,000 will be awarded to individuals or organizations.

Projects may use school spending data for a single district or multiple districts, or single or multiple states, but must incorporate data for more than one school. Applicants are encouraged to propose work using these data in conjunction with other public or administrative data sources. We encourage applicants to review the list of available data and state-level documentation as they consider whether data from a particular state or set of states will meet the needs of their proposed work.

One-half of the award ($2,500) will be disbursed upon the project start date of July 1, 2021. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2021. Awardees will participate in a showcase event sharing their analysis and findings in early 2022 and provide feedback on the dataset and portal interface via survey. Final deliverables for the projects must share the methods and findings of the data analysis. They can take the form of written reports, or slide decks or a collection of graphs as the deliverable as long as they report out key methods and findings. If applicable, projects can be reused for other purposes, such as policy briefs, thesis deliverables, or school board presentations

Eligibility
We welcome applications from individuals and organizations. Candidates may be from any discipline including but not limited to education, public policy, economics, sociology, psychology, and political science. Students (undergraduates and graduate), postdoctoral fellows, faculty, researchers, federal, district or school staff, and advocates are all encouraged to apply.

Application
Proposals (750 words max) should describe: (1) the research question and its importance; (2) the data sources and sample (including proposed district(s) or state(s)); (3) the plan for analysis; and (4) the qualifications of the applicant to conduct the proposed analysis (or attach a resume or CV). Successful proposals will be explicit in describing the contribution of the school spending data archive to the research question.

Applicants must complete the application and upload their proposal by 11:59pm ET April 30, 2021. The link to the form and to upload proposals is listed on Edunomics Lab website at https://edunomicslab.org/mini-grant/. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by June 1, 2021, for project start dates of July 1, 2021.

Questions
Please visit https://edunomicslab.org/mini-grant/ to learn more or register for an informational webinar to be held on March 25, 2021. Additionally, Dr. Nora Gordon will host virtual office hours to answer questions and help develop project ideas. Please email nerds@georgetown.edu for more details about these dates and times.