

# SRI International

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October 1998

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ELEMENTARY LONGITUDINAL STUDY (SEELS)**

### **PROPOSED TASKFORCE MEMBERSHIP, MEETING PLAN AND AGENDA**

**SRI Project 3421**

SEELS is being designed under Task Order 6 to SRI International and the Research Triangle Institute under the Office of Special Education Programs' Initiative to Link Research and Practice to Improve Results for Individuals with Disabilities.



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## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ELEMENTARY LONGITUDINAL STUDY (SEELS) Task Force Membership and Work Plan**

The value of the Special Education Elementary Longitudinal Study (SEELS) will be maximized to the extent that it meets the diverse information needs of the multiple audiences that will have been interested in it. To articulate these information needs, the Office of Special Education Programs is seeking input regarding the study's research questions and conceptual framework from a diverse group of individuals who represent several interested audiences, including parents, special and regular educators and administrators, related service personnel, state and local education officials, and national organizations. These representatives will comprise the study task force and will be convened early in the SEELS design phase in order to set design activities on a solid conceptual footing.

### **Task Force Members**

The list of task force participants is attached.

### **Work Plan**

The task force will meet at SRI International's Roslyn, VA offices on November 23, 1998. The purpose of the meeting will be to develop and prioritize the research questions SEELS should address and to elaborate and refine a conceptual framework to guide the study in answering those questions. To spark thinking in advance of the meeting, SRI will prepare a brief paper that contains a draft conceptual framework, discussion of its domains, and potential research questions and will provide the paper to the task force members 2 weeks before the meeting.

The meeting will commence with opening remarks about OSEP's plans and objectives for SEELS, and the current design process. SRI staff will facilitate introductions of task force members, the day's objectives, and activities. The day will be organized into discussions of specific domains (e.g. student characteristics, outcomes), within which each of the following areas will be addressed:

- **Key issues.** An essential starting point will be to assess the key research issues for each substantive area. The group will identify issues (e.g. academic and social outcomes) and consider whether they are included in the conceptual framework, or if additions or deletions are to be made. In addition, conceptual relationships between issues will begin to be identified.
- **Research questions.** Research questions pertaining to each study domain will be identified and listed. The group will evaluate questions suggested by SRI and make recommendations for changes, additions, deletions, and substitutions.
- **Information source.** Information in many of the SEELS research domains could potentially be collected from several sources. The group will consider the pros, cons, and logistics of obtaining information from particular sources (e.g. parent, teacher, records).

- **Priorities.** The study must balance the numerous interesting topics and subtopics that could be included in the study's conceptual framework with the need to assign some research topics higher priority than others due to limited resources. The task force will be asked to prioritize the questions that are most important for the study to address.

SRI will report on the day's discussions and include them in a revision of the SEELS conceptual framework.

## Task Force Members

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TF = Task force participant      PO = Project officer      PD = Project co-director

Priority-setting—Mary Wagner

Wrap-up—Judy Holt