



You have been asked to provide a recommendation for an applicant for the National Academy of Education's (NAEd) ***Equity in Math Education Research Grants (EMERG) Program***. More information about the full program to inform your letter is available on the [NAEd website](#). We encourage you to read the [application guidelines](#) before writing your recommendation letter. The application deadline for this program is **September 28, 2023 at 8:00pm EDT**. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all materials, including references, are submitted prior to this deadline.

Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, EMERG is a bold new effort aimed at reconceptualizing the foundations of equitable and ambitious mathematical experiences for K-12 learners, specifically for populations who have historically not had access to such opportunities. These include African-American, Latine, and Indigenous students, as well as students from communities experiencing inter-generational poverty. The program will award up to 10 grants of approximately \$113,000 each to be used over a period of two years.

The EMERG Program will cultivate and support an intergenerational research community of diverse scholars and practitioners including: 1) an initial cohort of 10 EMERG early career scholars (within seven years of obtaining the Ph.D. or equivalent) chosen for their potential to propose and carry out cutting edge research and their willingness to have their initial project proposals refined through interaction with the EMERG collective; 2) an Executive Board consisting of senior researchers and practitioners with expertise in mathematics education research, development, and practice, who will oversee the project and select EMERG Scholars; and 3) an Advisory Committee who will mentor and advise EMERG Scholars. Advisory Committee members' expertise spans the mathematical, educational, learning sciences, developmental, historical, linguistic, social, political and practical foundations required for re-thinking what is needed to support learners to identify with, invest in, and become powerful knowers, doers, and generators of mathematics.

In addition to supporting EMERG Scholars' individual projects, the EMERG community will create a robust and evolving conceptual framework to guide research in mathematics education. This framework, largely informed by the work of EMERG Scholars, will support future decision-making at the Gates Foundation as well as chart a research agenda for the field.

The EMERG Scholars will be selected based on their potential to propose and carry out cutting-edge research and their willingness to have their initial project proposals refined through interaction with senior researchers and practitioners in the EMERG community. As such, the proposals submitted by successful EMERG scholars are not considered "final and ready to be implemented." Each awardee will work with an individual mentor and a select group of advisors to refine their specific project. The proposal should characterize the arena and context for the intended project, its focus and the questions addressed, why the project matters, why it is feasible, and how the research project could be designed methodologically. *Again, it is expected that the proposed work will be refined in interaction with the EMERG community.*

## Instructions

References are asked to provide a letter of recommendation that speaks to the strength of the applicant and the potential of prospects of the proposed research project, with the support of a mentoring committee, to yield significant and important insights .

We ask that your letter of recommendation include information on the following:

- Your relationship to the applicant;
- Your evaluation of the applicant relative to other individuals you have worked with;
- The strength of the proposed project and the scholar's understanding and addressing the perennial challenges faced by the community that will be the focus of the study. Does the applicant view and plan to address the issues in sophisticated or insightful ways? *Please remember that project descriptions can include "preliminary" elements and are expected to evolve as the EMERG research community takes shape, grapples with the issues raised by the proposals, and develops conceptual approaches.*
- The applicant's future potential as a scholar and likelihood that their line of research will continue to address issues in math education;
- The applicant's capacity to be a reflective and collaborative member of the EMERG community.
- ***Please share your knowledge of the applicant's experience, relationships, and/or professional interactions with the population(s) they are working with.***

Applications will be evaluated on the compelling nature and intellectual rigor of the proposed project, the strength of the candidate's research credentials, and the candidate's potential to contribute to the full EMERG community. Please refer to the [NAEd website](#) for more information on the program details and application and evaluation processes.

Again, please keep in mind the application deadline of **September 28, 2023 at 8:00pm EDT**.

When ready, you can submit your letter (in PDF format) to the application portal:  
(LINK WILL BE PROVIDED VIA AUTOMATED EMAIL)

Thank you for your time and contribution to this process.