AERDF Global Access Strategy
Last updated February 18, 2021

The purpose of this Global Access Strategy is to explain the policies that the Advanced Education Research and Development Fund (AERDF) will put in place to meet two closely related commitments. The first is its commitment to ensuring new technologies and capabilities reach its intended beneficiaries, namely, Black and Latino students and students from low-income households. The second is the commitment of AERDF and its grantees to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's (BMGF) Global Access requirements (see Appendix). The Foundation is one of the primary sponsors of AERDF, and compliance with its Global Access commitment is a condition of its funding for AERDF.

Background. AERDF aims to run directed development programs focused on persistent challenges in K-12 education in the U.S. Its first effort is the Executive Function + Math program, which aims to initiate a change in U.S. classrooms that reduces the math and executive function opportunity gaps between students from low- and high-income households. The program is funding and directing research, development, and evaluation projects that, if successful, will demonstrate advanced educational capabilities by testing prototype systems with teachers in a wide variety of classrooms. Companies, non-profit organizations, universities, schools, and teachers are performing these research, development, and evaluation projects. The program will strongly encourage all parties to implement successful results at scale, ultimately reaching the millions of students who stand to benefit from these advances.

AERDF will support additional directed development programs similar in scale to EF+Math, focused on different teaching and learning challenges. Like EF+Math, these programs will fund and direct research, development and evaluation projects aimed at producing innovations in important focus areas (e.g., assessment, accelerating mastery, increasing motivation and engagement). We do not intend to fully fund product development or commercialization. Hence, our policies and practices aim to (a) focus research and development (R&D) efforts during the program on designing for the needs of our intended beneficiaries, (b) influence and encourage companies and non-profit organizations to bring to market and sell products that use the program's R&D and (c) ensure those products are designed for, and should they be commercialized, be offered to, and can be accessed and afforded by schools, districts, and programs that serve our intended beneficiaries, namely, Black, Latino, and low-income students.

In addition to the individual projects, AERDF will generate generalizable new knowledge and insights for wide dissemination. and does not anticipate creating any protected intellectual property itself; should that change, that IP will also be managed in compliance with BMGF's Global Access commitment.

This initial Global Access Strategy describes our overall approach. As our work evolves, we will update this Strategy based on the specifics of the individual projects and lessons from across the programs.

AERDF mechanisms to achieve Global Access. To achieve our ultimate goal of adoption and learning improvements from the Funded Developments, our Global Access policy requires that (a) generalizable knowledge and information gained from programs and projects be promptly and broadly disseminated, (b) intellectual property that may be required for downstream products be protected and a Humanitarian License be provided to AERDF, (c) any products that incorporate Funded Developments are offered to and can be afforded by schools, districts, and programs that serve our intended beneficiaries, namely, Black, Latino, and low-income students, and (d) product reports be provided for assessment purposes.

Generalizable knowledge and Information. We expect much of the work funded by AERDF programs to lead to publishable results and generalizable knowledge and information. AERDF as an organization will also learn from across-program efforts and generate new knowledge. The performers and AERDF will share insight and knowledge gained from the program, including research data, results of evaluations, assessments, methods, and other information, through a variety of methods including the AERDF website, white papers, presentations at academic and industry events, and peer-reviewed journals. Published research that results from AERDF funding will follow the BMGF Open Access policy.

Funded Developments. Funded Developments, including work product and intellectual property emanating from AERDF programs, will need to be carefully managed to enable subsequent commercialization, achieve program goals, and comply with the BMGF Global Access commitment. "Funded Developments" are any and all processes, technologies, materials, software, data or other innovations resulting from the program including modifications, improvements and further developments to Essential Background Technology. Essential Background Technology includes any and all products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data, or other innovations that are created or licensed by the performer and are either incorporated into a Funded Development or reasonably required to exercise a license to the Funded Developments.

AERDF will require performers and their licensees to adhere to the BMGF Global Access commitment. AERDF will receive a nonexclusive license to the intellectual property resulting from the Funded Development with terms as prescribed by the BMGF's Humanitarian License, including license to the Essential Background Technology.

Product affordability. We require that any products that use Funded Developments are offered to and can be afforded by schools, districts, and programs that serve our intended beneficiaries, namely, Black, Latino, and low-income students. Together, the combination of product pricing, product cost, and demographics of students served will provide AERDF information on ensuring that products are affordable:

- Pricing: Pricing information is required as described in the Product Reports section. If applicable independent market pricing analyses exist, AERDF would utilize that as an element of an affordability assessment.
- Cost: Cost information is required as described in the Product Reports section.
- Usage: AERDF requires that the percentages of Black, Latino, and low-income students using these products to be at least equivalent to the percentage of such students in US public schools.

Product reports. As part of their work during the program itself, performers will report on their plans and strategies for post-program development and commercialization. Performers that subsequently develop and take to market products that use Funded Developments will report on their progress in serving the U.S. education system and in reaching Black, Latino, and low-income students, for five years after the conclusion of the grant or contract. They will provide the following information to AERDF:
- A description of how these products' content and approach reflect the needs of Black, Latino and low-income students and the needs and constraints of the schools and educators who serve them
- A description of the company's efforts to reach schools and districts that serve high percentages of Black, Latino, and low-income students, through marketing, sales, pricing, and distribution strategies, including the company's plan to reach a nationally representative proportion of Black, Latino, and low-income students
- Their pricing for products that use the Funded Developments, including their pricing structure (e.g., software licenses, subscriptions, and/or support services), with special note of any differentiated pricing designed to ensure their products are affordable to under-resourced schools and districts. Where custom pricing approaches are utilized, reports will include specific representative examples that demonstrate how affordable pricing was determined.
- Their cost for products that use the Funded Development. The methodology used may vary based on the nature of the product, but should include fully-loaded costs (e.g. including equipment, R&D, labor, cost to commercialize, etc.).
- The demographics of the students who are using these products, including the percentage of Black, Latino, and low-income students.

The purpose of these reports is to help us assess the degree to which the program is achieving its ultimate goal of providing effective new capabilities for Black, Latino, and low-income students. These reports are for internal use at AERDF and its major funders only and will not be shared publicly, in order to protect company-sensitive information.

AERDF's agreements with performers will include a nonexclusive license to Funded Developments and Essential Background Technology. AERDF intends to encourage innovation in the ecosystem and encourage organizations to bring products to market that further the mission of the program. Accordingly, it is AERDF's intent to exercise this license only in the event it determines the performer is not meeting the Global Access commitments.

AERDF reporting for Global Access. AERDF will prepare and submit to BMGF a semi-annual report to update the status of Global Access related activities and to flag any issues in meeting Global Access requirements. For each program, upon reaching an appropriate stage of design, these reports will describe program objectives, any program specifications that have been created (e.g. RFPs), including frameworks or methodologies developed or used to determine affordability of solutions to be developed. During program execution, these reports will also list performers and provide information about (a) the dissemination of program results, including details of publications (name of publication, link, date of publication, and a synopsis); (b) Funded Developments, Essential Background Technology, and intellectual property; and (c) product reports from performers. The report will include details of agreements, parties, effective dates, license/assignment specifics, and descriptions of IP with detail on the Global Access commitments appropriate to stage of development. The report is included as an output in the Results Tracker for the Foundation and other funders.

To ensure that these commitments are lived through strategy and as contemplated in the HL itself, AERDF (via its Board and CEO), BMGF, and CZI (as a major funder) will commit to participating in an annual "Global Access Strategy review" process timed concurrently with AERDF's annual report for BMGF (including any IP reporting obligations) whereby AERDF will present strategies for Global Access related to specific programs and the parties will jointly decide whether the HL needs to be modified or terminated, as appropriate.

Appendix: BMGF Global Access Commitment and Humanitarian License

GLOBAL ACCESS COMMITMENT
You will conduct and manage the Project and the Funded Developments in a manner that ensures Global Access. Your Global Access commitments will survive the term of this Agreement. "Funded Developments" means the products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data, other innovations, and intellectual property resulting from the Project (including modifications, improvements, and further developments to Background Technology). "Background Technology" means any and all products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data, or other innovations, and intellectual property created by You or a third party prior to or outside of the Project used as part of the Project. "Global Access" means: (a) the knowledge and information gained from the Project will be promptly and broadly disseminated; and (b) the Funded Developments will be made available and accessible at an affordable price (i) to people most in need within developing countries, or (ii) in support of the U.S. educational system and public libraries, as applicable to the Project.

HUMANITARIAN LICENSE
Subject to applicable laws and for the purpose of achieving Global Access, You grant the Foundation a nonexclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free, fully paid up, sublicensable license to make, use, sell, offer to sell, import, distribute, copy, create derivative works, publicly perform and display: Funded Developments and Essential Background

Technology. "Essential Background Technology" means Background Technology that is (i) owned, controlled, or developed by You, or in-licensed with the right to sublicense; and (ii) either incorporated into a Funded Development or reasonably required to exercise the license to Funded Developments. You confirm that You have retained sufficient rights in the Funded Developments and Essential Background Technology to grant this license. You must ensure this license survives the assignment or transfer of Funded Developments or Essential Background Technology. On request, you must promptly make available the Funded Developments and Essential Background Technology to the Foundation for use solely under this license. If You demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Foundation that Global Access can best be achieved without this license, the Foundation and You will make good faith efforts to modify or terminate this license, as appropriate.