



Partnership Research Priorities

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is interested in discovering new and innovative approaches to today's education policy challenges. In pursuit of that goal ADE leverages partnerships with external entities which may include think tanks, academic organizations and/or individual academic researchers to perform high-quality research on topics of interest to the department and Arizona's education community at large.

For fiscal year 2013-2014, these topics are organized around three themes. Though these themes can include many research questions, special consideration will be given to partnership proposals that specifically aim to address the topics below:

Educator Quality: Evaluate the effectiveness of programs and practices for the preparation, professional development, retention, and evaluation of educators in order to improve educator competency, professional satisfaction and, ultimately, student learning and achievement, specifically:

- The effectiveness of various methods of implementing performance pay for educators (in terms of motivation to improve), and/or the impact of performance pay on student achievement
- Methods to evaluate the effectiveness of teachers and principals, specifically measures aimed at identifying educators that encourage academic achievement and student engagement.

Educational Quality: Explore school or system factors and characteristics or the effectiveness of programs or practices that are associated with better student learning and achievement, specifically:

- The use of Parent/Student/Teacher satisfaction surveys in evaluating school quality.
- National comparisons of Arizona public schools to schools in other states, on a uniform basis (e.g. controlling for demographic/economic factors)
- The impact of Career and Technical Education (CTE) on students' readiness for college and careers, and/or its effect on student engagement.
- The relationship of educational outcomes or other societal factors (e.g. crime) to the availability of school choice in Arizona.

Student Outcomes: Explore factors and interventions that are associated with student outcomes, including student achievement, dropout/graduation, and college and career readiness, specifically:

- The effects of poverty or other demographic factors on educational outcomes.
- The impact of Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards on Arizona's public education system (any number of facets can be explored)
- Consequential validity of assessment usages

ADE will evaluate proposals to partner with the agency on one or more of these research initiatives. Interested parties may contact ADE's research and evaluation section (R&E). All requests for student level data from ADE will also be evaluated against these priorities. For more information on ADE's data request policies, please visit www.azed.gov/data.

Examples of Partnerships Currently Underway

Partnership	Project Name	Description
Arizona State University, Arizona Practitioner-Researcher Educational Partnership	School Improvement Researcher and Practitioner Partnership (IES Grant)	This project received federal funding from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to examine Arizona's lowest achieving Title I schools via factors related to student achievement, and what interventions and systems of support are effective in school improvement.
REL West at WestEd	Across State ELL Collaborative	ELL research. Additional studies are under consideration. Past studies have consisted of mobility and achievement trends for ELLs
REL West at WestEd	Principal and Teacher Evaluation Model Pilot	REL West and WestEd are assisting the ADE in data collection and analysis for the Principal and Teacher Evaluation model during the pilot years, specifically assessing the impact of the model on school climate; and examining correlations of the components that make up the model.
University of Kansas and University of North Carolina/Charlotte	Cross-State look at Educator Effectiveness Models specifically tied to Special Education Teachers (Potential IES Grant)	This exploratory study will focus on an evaluation model of teachers' effectiveness for students with significant cognitive abilities. This is a cross-state study and may entail piloting an evaluation model in some of Arizona LEAs.
Arizona State University (Learning Science Institute), National Center on Assessment and Accountability for special Education, and University of Oregon	National Research and Development Center on Assessment and Accountability for Special Education - Cross-state study (IES Grant)	This study is to develop and test various approaches for measuring the achievement growth of students with and without disabilities. We reference these outcomes to multiple accountability purposes for which states are using their data and focus on both convergent and divergent patterns across the models and data sets from partner states.
National Center for Education Achievement (NCEA/ACT)	Arizona Core Practice Research for School Improvement (7-year study)	NCEA/Act has developed a Core Practice Framework which is the groundwork for the study in Arizona. The research consists of: survey piloting, survey administration, case studies and reporting across seven years.
Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO)/Stanford University	National Charter School Study "Multiple choice: Charter School Performance in 26 States and New York City" (Originally this study only included 16 states including Arizona)	The first study to take a comprehensive look at the impact of charter schools on student performance.
Center for the Future of Arizona, University of Michigan, and National Center of Education and the Economy	The Arizona Move on When Ready Initiative	This is a research study focusing on students' progress in Arizona's schools that are participating in the MOWR initiative.