



Research & Program Evaluation

Innovators in education research for more than 50 years

Uncover and leverage your data to make strategic, evidence-based decisions that support school and system improvement, staff development, and student growth.



ANALYSIS



STRATEGY



EVALUATION



Helping educators flourish by turning research into solutions that transform teaching, learning, and leading.



Leverage your data for better decision making

McREL's deepest roots are in education research. Since our founding in 1966 as a Regional Educational Laboratory under the U.S. Office of Education and now as a non-profit, non-partisan education research and consulting organization, we've been turning knowledge gleaned from research into practical, effective guidance for teachers and education leaders across the U.S. and around the world.

Making informed decisions at any level of an education system requires big-picture understanding of context and nuanced understanding of individual learning—and data are the key to both.

Every school and education system has unique strengths, challenges, climates, and stakeholders that require contextually responsive evaluations. By collaboratively analyzing *your* data in *your* context, McREL can help you uncover possible origins of your challenges as well as your hidden bright spots. With this foundational knowledge, we'll help you develop, evaluate, and reach your goals to support high-quality teaching, leading, and learning.

Your Investigative Journey...

- School improvement initiatives
- Securing funding sources
- Application design
- Interventions
- School climate improvement
- Teacher preparation program review
- Curriculum planning, review, and alignment
- Classroom evaluation and assessment
- Teaching and instruction improvement
- 1-1 device initiatives

OPPORTUNITIES

- Developing clear theories of action
- Proposal and grant writing and review
- Needs assessments
- Literature reviews
- Iterative improvement cycles (improvement science; design-based research)
- External third-party audits, evaluations, and reviews

APPROACHES

- Case studies
- Descriptive studies
- Meta-analysis and research synthesis
- Experimental and quasi-experimental designs
- Process and implementation studies

Helping *your* data better tell *your* story

Are you stumbling over too much data? Accumulating a wealth of data might feel like progress, but if you don't know what to do with these data or how to interpret them, your improvement efforts can stall. Starting with a clear theory of action and/or logic model, we can help your data better tell your story and inform decisions and next steps.

Together, we'll sort through the complexity to determine appropriate, measurable goals and identify data-collection frameworks and strategies, analyses, and reporting that scaffold capacity-building, development, implementation, and continuous improvement of your strategic plans and programs and measure progress—on a short-term, long-term, or ongoing basis.

“McREL helped our team identify the most critical behaviors for teaching inquiry.”

- Western Kentucky University

Our collaborative approach

“McREL made our processes organized and efficient with **great data analysis and assistance to our stakeholders.**”

- Wyoming Department of Education

Our research and evaluation team centers its efforts on *your* needs and questions. Our collaborative approach ensures support at every stage—from co-authoring proposals and evaluation plans, to securing funding, collecting data, and reporting outcomes. We'll give you contextually relevant recommendations and practitioner-friendly reports that you can use to develop, modify, and sustain your efforts. We can also refine methods and processes at any point along your investigative journey to maintain integrity and viability and ensure accurate and useful reporting.

Using methodologies and methods that consider your context, budget, and schedule, we'll employ and customize a wide range of investigative tools to carefully examine your driving questions—large or small—and how they inform your initiatives, products, and policies.

- Instrument development and validation
- Data collection: paper-based and/or electronic surveys; assessments; conversations (interviews or focus groups); observations; extant document reviews

PATHWAYS



- Secure, private data handling
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Mapping

- Comprehensive, practitioner-friendly reports
- Analyses aligned to questions and data: traditional and cutting-edge quantitative and/or qualitative analyses
- Actionable recommendations and valid conclusions
- Success stories
- Expertise in federal reporting requirements

OUTCOMES

A world of preK-20 clients and partners

While much of our work is with educators in the U.S. and the Pacific region, we also work with schools and government agencies in Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, and other places around the world. We use this extensive experience to help *all* our clients, sharing the best practices, strategies, and insights we see with other clients who have similar strengths and challenges.

McREL's research and evaluation clients:



Our partnerships and outcomes

We're inspired by educators and leaders who want to flourish by using the best combination of research, evaluation, and best practices. Recent projects include:



Victoria Department of Education and Training: *School climate survey*

Developed, administered, and analyzed a system-wide school climate survey across the state of Victoria, Australia, finding that perception of school climate can predict literacy achievement.



VocabularySpellingCity® (VSC): *Efficacy study of instructional program*

Conducted an efficacy study of the VSC program, finding that it had a significant impact on students' vocabulary retention and reading comprehension, especially for English language learners.



Old Dominion University and Western Kentucky University: *Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) grant evaluations*

Evaluated TQP program implementation and outcomes, which helped refine curriculum, participant supports, mentor selection process, and future PD needs for teacher residency programs that lead to better teacher retention.

Want to know more? Call or e-mail us today!



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