

Archived Information

Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC)

Goal Area: Building a Research Base

Organizational Accomplishments: Through dozens of projects and publications, EDC contributes original research findings to practitioners and the education research community. Our research initiatives range from targeted field tests and pilot studies of promising practices to long-term evaluations of national school reform programs. EDC researchers contribute to the research base through presentations at national conferences, journal articles, and several full-length books.

Purpose: EDC works at the intersections of research and practice. We seek to develop, identify, and disseminate effective approaches to K-12 mathematics education for all students. Our research projects help to build a better understanding of student learning, teacher learning and practice, and the critical role of education administrators. We also study the wider contexts that affect mathematics learning, including school and district structures, state and federal policies, and the relationships among schools, communities, and families.

Activities and Results:

- *Creating Better Frameworks for Implementation Evaluations in Mathematics and Science Partnerships:* EDC, in collaboration with SRI International, Policy Studies Associates, and a team of senior consultants, is creating a set of conceptual and practical tools to improve implementation evaluation in targeted and comprehensive MSPs.
- *Finding Principles for K–6 Curriculum Materials that Promote Rather than Require Professional Development:* The goals of this NSF-funded study are to provide a proof-of-concept that classroom materials can support the development of profound understanding of fundamental mathematics for teachers who currently lack it, and to identify criteria for developing effective K–5 curriculum materials.
- *Handheld Diagnostics: Enhancing and Scaling Rigorous Observational Reading and Mathematics Assessments Through Handheld Computing :* EDC is examining the educational benefits handheld devices can provide teachers and students. Working with Wireless Generation, we are researching and aiding in the development of educational handheld tools for assessing reading and early mathematics learning.
- *Linking Data with Learning—the Grow Network Study:* We are conducting a two-year independent research study of the implementation of the Grow Report in the New York City school system. The Grow Report is a web-based test reporting system designed to help educators gather and use assessment data to support meaningful standards-based teaching and learning. Funded by the Carnegie Foundation.
- *IBM's Reinventing Education Evaluation:* IBM's Reinventing Education initiative promotes broad-based systemic change in public schools. EDC's current evaluation of Reinventing Education is a comprehensive, three-year investigation of how the solutions are being implemented and the impact they are having on schools.
- *Union City: Innovation Exchange—Exploring the Portability of Systemic Reform:* Through a National Science Foundation IERI planning grant, EDC and three partners will explore how innovative and effective models of technology-anchored teaching and learning can transfer across other contexts and how teachers, administrators, and researchers can collaborate to support, sustain, and gain knowledge from such endeavors.
- *Upping the Numbers: Using Research-Based Decision Making to Increase Diversity in Quantitative Disciplines:* The study, co-authored by EDC and Campbell-Kibler Associates, is among the first to gather data on what really works to increase under-represented students' interest and success in careers in science, engineering, and technology these fields. In response to the report, the GE Fund has pledged \$1.3 million to the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME), Inc. The money will go towards strengthening mathematics preparation for all students.

Plans for next 12 months: All of these activities are ongoing.