

Archived Information

Pearson Education Efforts

To Improve Mathematics and Science Education through Educational Research

Pearson Education is actively engaged in establishing a research process that will support the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and the building of a strong research base for mathematics and science education. With the formation of a strong educational research department to work across all K-12 business units, Pearson is designing and financially supporting the development of an extensive program of research. This series of integrated studies will be used, primarily, to guide the development and revision of Pearson's educational products. In addition, these studies will be conducted in a way to provide scientifically founded conclusions of interest to the field, in general.

Pearson's high regard for research is evident in its long history of implementing quality assurance procedures and product development research. In the past, Pearson has invited established University researchers to participate in product development and to bring their own unique practice and research experiences to share and utilize as a product's foundation. Pearson has also conducted quasi-experimental research that has provided much useful information in the form of editorial feedback and direction. With the nation's increased focus on educational accountability, Pearson will expand the volume of product effectiveness evaluations and conduct a series of studies on signature features of our math and science programs. Independent researchers will be engaged over a long-term period to investigate topics of interest and build upon their findings with future research plans.

Over the next 12 months, a primary research initiative will begin in mathematics, K-Algebra. Using various resources available, Pearson will investigate such topics as: exploring real time professional development methods that can address weak math content area knowledge of teachers and enhance student learning simultaneously, exploring various methods of integrating assessment into the learning process to produce sustained and conceptually deep understanding of math principles, varying the methods of introducing problem-solving techniques both directly and through discovery, and examining the value-add of electronically provided textbook materials.

As a result of these activities, Pearson expects to become a recognized contributor to the foundational research of math and science education. Partnerships in these endeavors will help to share the existing knowledge across educational arenas. Institutions, organizations, and corporations will begin to cross the lines of communication and share new knowledge that was previously siloed and unreachable. The common goals of accountability will help to accelerate the progress of identifying the most effective practices for educating our nation's students in these critical content areas.