

Archived Information

RMC Research Corporation

Educator's Guide to Collecting and Using Data
Improving Teacher Knowledge/Developing a Research Base

The *Educator's Guide to Collecting and Using Data* series of publications was developed to provide clients in the field and community members with easy to use and understand materials that provide research, insights, and increased understanding of various data gathering processes and their interpretation to improve student performance. These booklets help to “demystify” the data gathering and interpretation process and make it more useful for educators. The publications in this series include the following titles and brief descriptions:

Conducting Surveys. This booklet provides an understanding of surveys and when they are appropriate to use and for what purposes a survey makes sense. Additionally, the client is provided with a process for designing a survey that includes: documenting research objectives; selecting the right methodology; designing the research; conducting the survey; and analyzing the results.

Conducting Focus Group Research. This booklet provides an understanding of focus groups and when they are appropriate to use and for what purposes a focus group makes sense. Additionally, the client is provided with clear direction regarding a process for designing a focus group research project. These include: documenting research objectives; selecting the right methodology; designing the research; and planning and logistics, along with preparing the discussion guide. Information is also provided on conducting the focus group, including moderation skills, as well as how to analyze focus group results.

Conducting Classroom Observations. This guide is designed for use by individuals who will be involved in the observation of classrooms, including administrators, teachers, and evaluators. This booklet provides an overview of general strategies and approaches that may be used to observe instruction. This document is organized as a series of steps that guide you through the classroom observation process. These steps include: determining your purpose, selecting a method, selecting a protocol, planning an logistics, and conducting observations, analyzing the results, and reporting the findings. It will provide practical advice to help you understand classroom practice.

All of these publications are available for purchase on a cost-recovery basis. Over the next twelve months, we will be exploring the development of additional publications in this series, possibly a guide on lesson study.