

PROVING GROUND

ADVANCING EDUCATION THROUGH ACTIONABLE ANALYSIS

Proving Ground is an initiative, housed at the Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) at Harvard University, committed to helping education agencies meet their practical needs, by making evidence cheaper, faster, and easier to use.

Our goal is to make evidence-gathering and evidence-use an intuitive part of how education agencies conduct their daily work.

The Proving Ground approach offers a more responsive, pragmatic, and agile analytic cycle that empowers education policymakers and administrators to:

- quickly and reliably assess the impact of investments,
- continuously improve implementation by testing new strategies, and
- incorporate new and better evidence into decision-making.

Through our innovative infrastructure, proven analytical expertise, and the power of the Proving Ground network, we offer our partners the advantage of a robust array of tools, trainings and services specifically designed to improve and accelerate their education reform efforts.



“I love being able to collaborate with peers and have like-minded discussions. Our strength in numbers will allow us to go back to vendors and other organizations so that we can effect change and the direction in which programs are going.”

- Proving Ground Partner

THE PROVING GROUND APPROACH

Education agencies have implemented data systems which collect and store student, staff, and financial data. Few, however, have been able to fully utilize these systems to support continuous educational improvement. Proving Ground has developed an innovative approach to supplement agencies' capacity to effectively analyze their data to address educational improvement challenges.



DATA & ANALYTICS

Automated data transfer with secure storage

Safely transfer data to a secure server using an encrypted data transfer protocol.

Analysis of program impact

Determine program impact overall and by student characteristics, baseline achievement, and other relevant factors to determine whether a given program is more effective for some students than others.

Rapid-cycle implementation analysis

Review implementation data to identify potential barriers to successful implementation.

Timely, accessible, and actionable reports

Education agencies are provided with data visualization tools and online reports.

PEER COLLABORATION

On-line resources and virtual forums

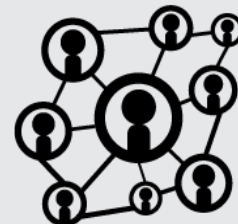
Connect with other partners, share resources, and receive support from members of the Proving Ground community.

Jointly pilot programs

Participate in network-wide pilot programs in order to evaluate program impact.

Networking opportunities

Join CEPR's growing network of over 120 education agencies and 30 affiliated faculty.



EDUCATION & TRAINING



Action-oriented workshops

Focus on addressing practical problems using real data to work towards actionable solutions.

Training on the use of data visualization tools

Receive hands-on and virtual training on analytic tools to build internal agency capacity.

Transforming analyses into action

Learn to interpret analyses and develop tactical plans to improve program efficacy.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Proving Ground partners can leverage CEPR's expertise in program evaluation and research to identify to address the most pressing issues on their timeline. Partners will also benefit from Proving Ground's data infrastructure, which pools information across the network to assess program efficacy. Partners will have an opportunity to share practices and answer critical implementation and improvement questions.

RELIABLY ASSESS IMPACT

- Is a given program making an impact?
- For which students and what grade-levels is it making an impact?
- What are the key drivers of impact?
- How does the magnitude of impact compare to other agencies implementing the same program?

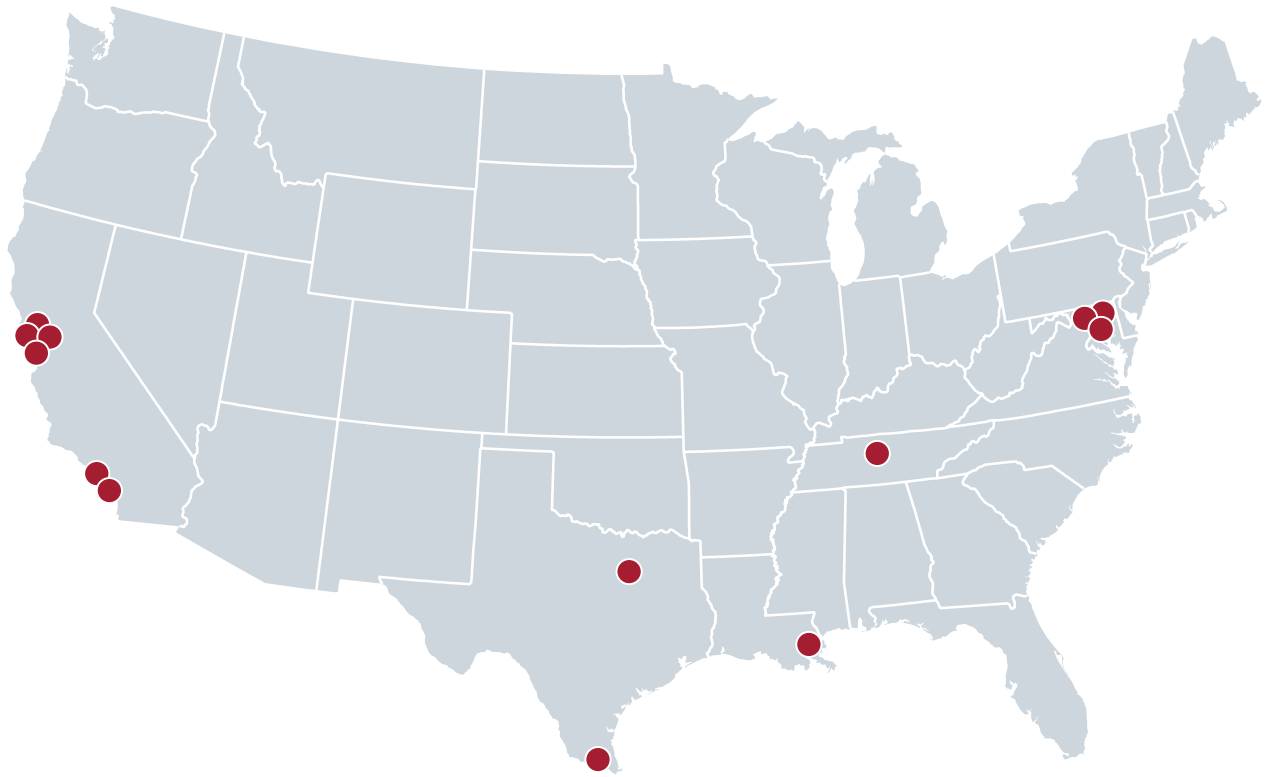
CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION

- Is a given program being used? If yes, by whom?
- Is there equitable access to the program?
- How are other education agencies implementing the program?
- What is the best way to roll-out new strategies and determine if they are improving implementation?

INFORM DECISION-MAKING

- For the level of investment, is a given program having the expected impact for students and is it sufficient?
- How should program support be differentiated to strengthen implementation?
- Is there sufficient capacity to implement the differentiated support and is it scalable?





PROVING GROUND

JOIN US

Contact us to learn how you can become a part of the Proving Ground network.

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PROVING GROUND NETWORK

Our network of education agencies includes:

- Aspire Public Schools
- DC Preparatory Academy
- District of Columbia Public Schools
- Firstline Schools
- IDEA Public Schools
- KIPP Bay Area
- KIPP DC
- KIPP LA
- LEAD Public Schools
- Oakland Unified School District
- Rocketship Education
- Santa Ana Unified School District
- Uplift Education

CENTER FOR EDUCATION POLICY RESEARCH AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

The Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) at Harvard University is a unique partnership among districts, states, foundations, and university-based researchers designed to leverage the overwhelming amount of data to address education policy questions and improve outcomes for all students.



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