

Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC)

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“Research with Consequence”

Research that identifies underlying problems and inequities, isolates mechanisms that drive them, and evaluates potential solutions

Informing Policy and Practice:

Focus on:

- State- and district-level policymakers
- Structures that are central to school and district operations

Intended to:

- Inform the field about important topics
- Help policymakers
- Improve student outcomes, esp. in highest-need areas

Collaborative:

- Multi-disciplinary
- Multi-method
- Multi-perspective
- Exploratory
- Evaluative
- Iterative

Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC)

Innovations in policy & practice

Partnerships

- MDE
- Univ of MI
- LEAs
- Schools
- Funders

Impact

- Admin data
- Descriptive
- Quasi-exp
- LT outcomes

Implementation

- Case studies
- Interviews
- Surveys

Measurement

- Assessment
- Climate
- SEL
- Methods

Innovations in policy research

Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC)

- Produce **rigorous** and **impactful** education research
 - Did it work?
 - What, how, who & why?
- Bring attention to **heterogeneous** inputs and outputs
 - Urban, suburban, rural
 - Poverty, race, ethnicity, ELL, special needs
 - Geography, centrality
- **Translate** research findings for policy and practitioner audiences
- Help develop **innovative solutions** to policy problems
- Model **multi-method, multi-disciplinary, multi-perspective** collaborations
- **Train** next-generation education researchers

Initial Research-Policy Partnership Project: Strengthening the Teacher Pipeline

- Developed in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Education
- Part of the state's strategic "Top 10 in 10 Plan" that includes educator quality
- Includes:
 - Cross-cohort analyses of teachers from their high school careers into college and through initial and ongoing placement into schools
 - Surveys of high school and college students to track employment decisions between teaching and other professions
 - Partnering with MSU outreach efforts and key MI school districts to examine teacher support and professional development throughout teachers' careers
 - Partnering with MI teacher-prep institutions to paint a full picture of teacher preparation and the role of EPIs in recruitment/retention into the profession

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Initial Research-Policy Partnership Project: Strengthening the Teacher Pipeline

- Partnering with MI teacher-prep institutions to paint a full picture of teacher preparation and the role of EPIs in recruitment/retention into the profession
 - We are in the early stages of planning a “nudge”-type experiment in collaboration with MDE
 - Research across many disciplines demonstrates that low-cost, high-information “nudges” can have substantial impacts on decision-making
 - The idea is to provide graduating students and first-year two/four-year college students information about the teaching profession near key decision points (e.g. college selection, declaration of major).
 - Target negative misperceptions and promote positive features of a potential teaching career
 - In the coming months we will reach out to you for help and advice.

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