

AREAS OF INTEREST FOR POLICY AND EVALUATION STUDIES

- *School Reform Initiatives*
- *Violence Prevention in Schools*
- *No Child Left Behind*
- *School Finance*
- *Legal Issues in Education*
- *Teacher Preparation*
- *Education Leadership*
- *Student Academic Achievement*
- *Career and Technical Education*
- *Workforce Education*
- *International Education*
- *Diversity Issues in Education*
- *Title I Programs*
- *Assessment and Testing*



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Education Policy and Evaluation Center

**Impacting education policy
and improving the quality
of education through
research and evaluation.**

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EDUCATION POLICY & EVALUATION CENTER

The Education Policy and Evaluation Center (EPEC) in the College of Education at the University of Georgia (UGA) supports rigorous research on policy and evaluation to improve education. We provide evaluation expertise to assess educational programs, assist policy makers and educators to expand knowledge of policy options, and disseminate research on education policy issues.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The **Program Evaluation Group** of EPEC conducts evaluation studies for government agencies, educational institutions, community organizations, and private enterprise at the local, state, national, and international levels. We use quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research approaches, including experimental designs, to provide relevant data and feedback for improving program implementation, effectiveness, and impact. Program evaluations are designed to address the specific needs of our project sponsors and educational practitioners.

Research staff in the Program Evaluation Group include university faculty, professional staff, doctoral students, and program specialists who work together to provide project team leadership, research design expertise, and all necessary data collection, analyses, and reporting for program evaluation projects. We draw upon expertise from nationally recognized faculty in the nine departments of the College of Education at UGA for evaluation of diverse education program areas. We also work closely with the Test Scoring and Reporting Services unit of the Georgia Assessment Center at UGA for student achievement assessments.

Evaluation Services of EPEC

The Program Evaluation Group of EPEC offers expertise in the design, management, and coordination of evaluation projects ranging from large, multi-site, complex evaluation studies to smaller, local assessments of education programs. We have extensive experience developing data collection instruments and protocol, conducting field-based research, and analyzing data using diverse statistical methods. The following **program evaluation services** can be contracted through EPEC:

- Survey design, administration, and analysis using Web-based online surveys or paper questionnaires
- Interviews and focus group discussions
- Onsite observations and document reviews
- Case study research
- Analyses of student achievement test data or other educational outcomes measures
- Design of evaluation studies required for grant funded educational programs
- Compiling and analyzing large complex datasets from multiple sources, both quantitative and qualitative
- Technical report preparation for funding agencies
- User-friendly presentation of findings

In addition, the Program Evaluation Group offers **training** workshops in evaluation design and methods, and can assist with evaluation requirements for grant-funded projects. We have served as the external evaluator for statewide educational initiatives such as Reading First, Comprehensive School Reform, Supplemental Educational Services, School-to-Work, distance learning, and alternative schools.

POLICY RESEARCH

The **Policy Research Group** in the EPEC provides nonpartisan research and in-depth analyses to policymakers and educators on issues to improve education. We assess educational policies, policy options, and education reform initiatives. We also publish policy research briefs to inform the conversation on education policy issues in Georgia and nationally. EPEC faculty collaborate with state, regional, national, inter-governmental, and international organizations and agencies to identify trends in education, and host seminars and symposia to discuss research on current education issues with key stakeholder groups. Researchers in the Policy Research Group of EPEC include faculty members from all nine academic departments in the College of Education at UGA, representing diverse interests and national expertise in the following academic fields:

- Communication Sciences & Special Education
- Counseling & Human Development Services
- Educational Psychology & Instructional Technology
- Elementary & Social Studies Education
- Kinesiology
- Language & Literacy Education
- Lifelong Education, Administration, & Policy
- Mathematics and Science Education
- Workforce Education, Leadership, & Social Foundations

