

**2001
DRE
ANNUAL
DISTRICT
HIGHLIGHTS**

Monday
April 9, 2001
Seattle

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Ann Arbor Public Schools

Respondent: Nancy Shiffler

Title: Evaluation Specialist

Address 2725 Boardwalk

City: Ann Arbor

State/Province: MI

Zip/Postal Code: 48104

Phone: (734) 994-2223

Fax: (734) 994-2955

E-Mail: shiffler@aaps.k12.mi.us

District Enrollment: 16,475

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 6

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- We continued our practice of meetings with individual building principals to review their school data and plan work with staff on instructional improvement.
- Child Accounting was added to our responsibilities this year – considerable work has been put in to streamlining the state reporting process, responding to new requirements for a state-side student database, and addressing a variety of district needs related to attendance area boundary shifts.
- We have been reviewing our district-wide assessment plan to respond to new state and federal requirements and to update our internal assessments.
- We have added on more program review and survey work, including a phone survey of families that recently transferred their students to local non-public or charter schools.

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

- The meetings with school principals have been very well-received and are resulting in productive planning by school staffs.
- More of our elementary staff are willing to use the electronic version of district report cards. This is improving our turn-around time for data analysis and opening up options for schools to do their own ad hoc data analysis of student achievement.

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

- District budget cuts
- Getting our new Research staff up to speed in time to address increasing work load

Areas of Interest/Need

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Blue Valley Schools

Respondent: Thel Kocher

Title: Exec. Dir. For Curriculum and Assessment

Address 15020 Metcalf

City: Overland Park

State/Province: KS

Zip/Postal Code: 66283

Phone: (913)681-4681

Fax: (913) 681-4075

E-Mail: tkocher@bu229.k12.ks.us

District Enrollment: 17,200

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 2

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- * Cohort analyses of NRT data
Adjusting to new state assessment program
Performance assessments in science and social studies
- * Locally developed informal reading inventory for elementary
- * Foreign language criterion-referenced assessments

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

- Informal reading inventories are impacting instructional improvement
- Cohort data are not as positive as we would wish. The data are helping drive instructional improvement

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

- Very bleak state funding picture
- Prospect of losing much of the good assessment we do as the President's plan is implemented

Areas of Interest/Need

Reporting cohort data to lay audiences

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Cherry Creek Schools

Respondent: Dr. M. Kevin Matter Title: Director, Assessment and Evaluation

Address: 4700 S. Yosemite Street

City: Englewood State/Province: CO Zip/Postal Code: 80111

Phone: 720-554-4244 Fax: 720-554-4488 E-Mail: kmatter@mail.ccsd.k12.co.us

District Enrollment: 42,000 Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 7

Major Areas of Work

We have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- Data Warehouse (DW) development and work on Executive Information System (EIS) and Data Access System (DAS) interfaces to DW
- Training school and administrative staffs in assessment/data use

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

- Hiring four great people for our office and being more-or-less fully staffed!!!

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

- Staying with "multiple-measures" (NRT & district tests) as state testing volume increases
- District and departmental staffing and organization to more quickly provide services and support, especially in rapidly-changing areas (e.g., technology)

Areas of Interest/Need

- Technology**—using technology (especially WWW pages) for reporting information/data, and how to improve efficiency in working through use of technology (e.g., making tables and charts once instead of multiple times and using that in multiple publications, areas, etc.).
- Educational indicators / scoreboard of performance for schools and districts
- Growth of high-achieving students, especially in reading
- Consistency of student performance across tests or measures, and over time
- Using value-added measures to examine school, district, and program effectiveness

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Cincinnati Public Schools

Respondent (name and title): Dr. Jack Lewis, Director, Research and Evaluation

Address: P. O. Box 5381 City: Cincinnati State/Province: OH Zip/Postal Code: 45201-5381

Phone: 513-475-7166 Fax: 513-475-4840 E-Mail: lewisja@cpsboe.k12.oh.us

District Enrollment: 42,500 Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 4.5 FTE

Certificated and 5.0 FTE Clerical

Major Areas of Work (I have been working in these areas. *Please asterisk areas for which reports are available.*)

School Accountability Plan (high stakes with rewards and sanctions for schools)

Administrator Accountability Plan (high stakes with merit pay increases for administrators and bonuses for teachers based on results)

Evaluation of New American School designs

Evaluation of magnet programs and many ongoing programs

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses (Please limit to two or three significant highlights.)

Accountability plan results for schools and for administrators have been accepted and acted upon by Superintendent and Board of Education. The program has been accepted also by the teacher's union, but some administrators are questioning the plan.

NAS programs have not yet shown consistently good results in our schools.

Magnet programs continue to show positive benefits for students.

Biggest Challenge Facing Your district and/or Office

The biggest challenge to our district is to find ways to improve student performance on state proficiency tests and on other outcome measures. We have made some progress in recent years, but it has not been enough to meet the requirements under the state's accountability plan for districts. We are also losing students to charter schools.

For the Research and Evaluation Office, the biggest challenge recently has been to switch to a new computer system (after years on another system) and to coordinate the testing program given the high stakes nature of the test results.

Areas of Interest/Need

We are interested in learning what has worked in other urban districts to improve test scores, increase graduation rates, and to reduce the dropout rate.

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Darlington County School District

Respondent: Dr. John Segars

Title: Directory of Testing and Information Technology

Address 102 Park St.

City: Darlington

State/Province: SC

Zip/Postal Code: 29532

Phone: (843) 398-5100

Fax: (843) 398-5229

E-Mail: johns@darlington.k12.sc.us

District Enrollment: 11900

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 1.0

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- Producing summary and analyses of state testing , Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests
- Producing preliminary projections of school report cards to be issued by the State
- Implementing new identification procedures for gifted/talented programs
- Implementing new readiness assessment procedures for grades 1 and 2
- Planning to build a comprehensive student information system

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

None

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

- Doing everything that needs to be done with an FTE of 1.0
- Getting principals to use data for decision making

Areas of Interest/Need

- Data warehouse
- Web based data queries

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Durham (NC) Public Schools

Respondent: Dr. Joseph F. Haenn

Title: Director of Research & Evaluation

Address P. O. Box 30002

City: Durham

State/Province: NC

Zip/Postal Code: 27702

Phone: (919)560-2421

Fax: (919)560-2067

E-Mail: haennjf@dpsnc.net

District Enrollment: 29,788

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 1

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- * Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey
- Evaluation of Programs for the Academically and Intellectually Gifted (in process)
- Evaluation of Lakeview School (in process)
- Evaluation of the DPS Third Grade Reading Goal (to begin shortly)
- Evaluation of Laboratory Schools (to begin shortly)
- Evaluation of Magnet Schools (to begin shortly)
- Report on the Administration of the K-2 Observation Survey (MY and EOY)
- Development of all district-initiated surveys
- Supervision of all external research being conducted utilizing DPS students and/or staff

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

Too soon to judge for evaluations

Over 35 external research projects being conducted

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Lack of personnel

Areas of Interest/Need

- How to do your job with a shrinking staff and higher expectations without giving up your home life
- Data Warehousing

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Evanston Skokie School District 65

Respondent: Judith Levinson

Title:

Address 1314 Ridge Avenue

City: Evanston

State/Province: IL

Zip/Postal Code: 60201

Phone: 847-492-5950

Fax: 847-492-8124

E-Mail: jlevinso@inteaccess.com

District Enrollment: 6946

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 3

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- Analysis of State Testing Data by Ethnicity, Income & Mobility
- Summer School Evaluation
- Dual Language Program Evaluation
- Development of Local Assessment System aligned to state and local standards

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

Summer School Evaluation:

- For the Title I math program, at grades 2,3, and 5, students improved their scores from pretest to posttest on local measure but did not achieve mastery (70% percent or better)
- For the Title I reading program analysis of pretest/posttest data on Scholastic Reading Inventory (computerized assessment system from Scholastic Literacy Reading Series) indicated that students did not move out of the bottom quartile
- For the Pre-kindergarten program students improved from pretest to posttest for both Letter Recognition and Phonemic Awareness.

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

- Pressure to use test data to evaluate individual teacher performance

Areas of Interest/Need

- Internet Testing – Possibilities and Limitations
- Development of Reliable and Valid Local Assessment Systems Aligned to standards for the purpose of monitoring student progress

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Evergreen
Respondent: Sylvia Dean, Manager of Research/ Program Evaluator
Address: 13501 NE 28th St. PO Box 8910
City, State: Vancouver, WA. 98668-8910
Phone: (360) 604-4004 **Fax** (360) 892-5307
District Enrollment: 22, 048 – fastest growing 7th largest district in the state
Number of Staff: Seven (Includes Assessment and Grant Writer)

Major Areas of Work

- Professional Growth Action Research Projects
- Executive Summaries: Research Hot Topics (standards based reform)
- Current Policy issues: planning time, single track, teacher stress, technology funding, evaluation
- Exit projects, performance based assessment
- Folios of Best Practices for Strategic Planning Design Teams/ Committees
- Contact for Research Partnerships: Guidance Counselors & Teacher Retention Grant
- Program Development/Evaluations:
 - ✓ Model Classrooms
 - ✓ Learning Network
 - ✓ Traffic Safety
 - ✓ Resident Outdoor School
 - ✓ Swim/Water Safety
 - ✓ Diversity Training
 - ✓ Quality Schools * By June
 - ✓ Mathematics Adoption
 - ✓ ELL-ESL

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

- Traffic safety is gradually moving from public schools to ESDs or commercial schools
- Sustained peer coaching is a powerful staff development model
- Principals as instructional leaders can transform schools
- Teachers at every level are experiencing stress and burnout

Biggest Challenge Facing Your District and/or Office

With issues of under funding, rapid growth, changes in student population demographics, we are further hampered by the lack of a data base infrastructure to support our research and evaluation work.

Areas of Interest/Need

- Best practices that are research based for at risk, large schools, assessment
- Data display

Directors of Research and Evaluation

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: **Farmington Public Schools**

Respondent (name and title): Dr. Barbara Cherem, Director of Assessment & Evaluation

Address: 33000 Thomas Street

City: Farmington, MI 48336

Phone: 248 489 3421 **Fax:** 248 489 3838 **E-mail:** barbara.cherem@farmington.k12.mi.us

District Enrollment: 12,000 **Number of Staff in Department:** 4

Major Areas of Work (I have been working in these areas. Please asterisk areas for which reports are available.)

1. Establishing a system of Portfolios, student-involved conferences and electronic reporting across ten elementaries since 1998. Five years implementation.
2. Senior Exit Survey at three high schools (year one).
3. Annual 1-5 testing in Math/Reading; State law, July 2000.
4. * Reading Recovery 5 year follow up on terminated students; did they sustain improvement?
5. Summer School plan and grant for non-achieving third graders.
6. Reading/Writing rubric work – Committee for district writing prompt in informational reading area.
7. Student Success Indicators – Enlarging the menu of indicators.
8. High School failures and summer school repeated courses – exiting students from 3 main high schools.

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses (Please limit to two or three significant highlights)

1. Blocking – High achieving GPA students seem to prosper and also like the block the most.
2. Reading Recovery – Students from first grade Reading Recovery intervention appear to compare favorably in reading two to three years later.
3. One-Year Out Survey – Students responses similar to parents and community responses, but describe desiring more challenge in high school experience.

Biggest Challenge Facing Your District and/or Office

Amount of work increasing, legal mandates are more, and budget is same due to flat enrollments. That will ultimately drive us toward more mandated testing-directed work and less available to initiatives which are progressive such as portfolio development, student-involved conferencing and reports of student growth delivered electronically allowing richer narrative comments.

Areas of Interest/Need

Would like more knowledge of good custom software development company for reporting software that is not overly pricey or teacher unfriendly. We currently have developed our document on Word, which has serious limitations.

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Kentucky (Commonwealth of)

Respondent: Linda H. Frazer

Title:

Address 500 Mero St.

City: Frankfort

State/Province: KY

Zip/Postal Code: 40601

Phone: (502) 564-9853

Fax: (502) 564-7749

E-Mail: lfrazier@kde.state.ky

District Enrollment:

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department:

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

1. *Resetting performance standards
implementing contrasting groups, Jaeger-Mills, and CTB Book Mark, and synthesis of these three
2. Scholastic audit/review -- participation in process and data analysis
3. *Technical reports
4. * Longitudinal pilot
5. Teacher Questionnaires

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

1. Transition from old performance standards to new cut points
2. Doing a lot with few staff
3. Meeting mandates of legislature

Areas of Interest/Need

More staff

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Lexington County School District One, SC

Respondent: Dr. Janelle Rivers Title: Dir. of Assessment, Research, and Evaluation

Address PO Box 1869

City: Lexington State/Province: SC Zip/Postal Code: 29071

Phone: (803) 359-4178 Fax: (803) 359-8807 E-Mail: jriverson@lex1.k12.state.sc.us

District Enrollment: 17,273

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 1

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

Assessment, accountability

Evaluation of after school programs

Simulations of pending state report cards for schools and districts

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

We evaluated a program that showed success in improving test scores; however, a matched case study with other students in the same school showed approximately equivalent improvements, pointing to school-wide efforts that reached far beyond the program we attempted to evaluate. Awareness for faculty and parent was a prominent feature of the school's improvement efforts.

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Understaffed! I've just been made a director, and we've created a coordinator position. We plan to add additional support next year.

Areas of Interest/Need

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Lincoln Public Schools
Respondent: Carl (Nick) Novak Title: Director of Evaluation Services
Address 5901 O Street City: Lincoln State/Province: NE Zip/Postal Code: 68501
Phone: (402) 436-1790 Fax: (402) 436-1829 E-Mail: cnovak@lps.org
District Enrollment: 31,354 Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 16 (14.1)

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

Assessment of District Standards (Lukin)	District Assessment Study (Novak)
Indicators of Quality Education (Willeke)*	Counselor Assessment System (Reineke)
School Climate Assessment (Walker)	Evaluation of Arts Focus Program (Willeke)
Study of English Language Learners (Willeke)	Support of School Improvement (Walker)*
Grad Demonstration Exams (Lukin)*	Assessment Literacy Teams (Brunsmann)
Grad Follow Up Studies (Walker)*	School Calendar Survey (Novak)
Evaluation of Alternative Calendar (Reineke)*	Eval Brain-based Instruction Grant (Willeke)*
Statistical Reporting (Novak)*	Middle School Achievement Study (Walker)

Highlights

- ◆ Development of a system for assessing student progress on district English/language arts, math, science and social studies standards in grades 4, 8 and 11. We are in the second year of what is scheduled to be a four-year process. English/language arts and mathematics assessments have been field tested and will be administered this spring.
- ◆ Midway through a District Assessment Study that will (1) recommend a new NRT, (2) recommend modifications in the assessment program (what assessments are administered, when and to whom) (3) review district standards for quality assessment and recommend changes in those standards, and (4) recommend policy / best practices regarding the use of testing accommodations, preparing students for testing and reducing the testing burden.

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

- ◆ For the district one of the big challenges is moving schools towards a meaningful, data-driven, standards-based school improvement process.
- ◆ For the evaluation team one of the big challenges is supporting 51 schools as they work their way through the new school improvement process by providing accurate and meaningful data and assisting in the interpretation of that data.

Areas of Interest/Need

- ◆ Use of technology to support the school improvement process
- ◆ What does “data-driven” mean? How do you recognize it and how do you support it?

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Millard Public Schools

Respondent: John Crawford, Ph.D. Title: Exec. Dir. of Plan., Eval. and Info. Services

Address 5606 S. 147th St.

City: Omaha State/Province: NE Zip/Postal Code: 68135

Phone: (402) 895-8214 Fax: (402) 895-8448 E-Mail: jcrawford@mpsomaha.org

District Enrollment: 18,800

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 6.0

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- * Setting empirical standards (cutscores)
Developing and validating an Effective School Climate Battery
- * Generalizability of writing assessments under varying conditions
Program evaluation of staff development initiative

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

In each standard setting project we use multiple methods, which allows us to compare cutscores derived from Angoff, Borderline Group, and Bookmark methods.

The generalizability studies that we carried out on our writing assessments showed varying levels of dependability, contingent on 1-day vs. 2-day administration and on the developmental level of the students.

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Implementing standards-based reform (district) and (for our office) how to provide useful achievement feedback to administrators and staff.

Areas of Interest/Need

We are interested in how others handle program evaluation when decision-makers are asking cause-and-effect questions and yet, the program implementation and (often post hoc) program evaluation make that very difficult.

Also, we are interested in any research being carried out on the setting of cutscores.

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Natrona County School District #1

Respondent: Dr. Michael Flicek

Title: Research Assessment Coordinator

Address 970 N. Glenn Rd

City: Casper

State/Province: WY

Zip/Postal Code: 82601

Phone: (307)261-6825

Fax: (307) 577-0252

E-Mail: Mike_Flicek@ncsd.k12.wy.us

District Enrollment: 12000

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 2

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- * Normative longitudinal student achievement reports that are value added and comprehensible to stakeholders

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

Development of the Normative Longitudinal design

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Developing a fair system for evaluating school effectiveness and improvement

Areas of Interest/Need

Interest – Value added growth models

Need – Web based accountability reports

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: New York City Board of Education

Respondent (name and title): Robert Tobias, Executive Director

Address: 110 Livingston Street

City: Brooklyn State/Province: New York Zip/Postal Code: 11201

Phone: (718) 935-3767 Fax: (718) 935-5268 E-Mail: rtobias@nycboe.net

District Enrollment: 1,100,000 Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 85

Major Areas of Work (I have been working in these areas. Please asterisk areas for which reports are available.)

- Progress of English language learners*
- Dropout and graduation reporting*
- Impact of higher standards on student promotion and school completion*
- Web-Based score reporting*

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analysis (Please limit to two or three significant highlights.)

- Consistency of programmatic approach is a more significant determinant of the development of English proficiency of English language learners than the specific approach (i.e. bilingual or free-standing ESL) itself
- Higher graduation standards appear to be causing an increase in the dropout rate, especially for English Language learners.

Biggest Challenge Facing Your District and/or Office

Maintaining the integrity of our testing program in an environment in which test scores are increasingly used for high-stakes purposes.

Area of Interest/Need

The impact of higher standards on student performance

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Orange County Public Schools
Respondent: Lee Baldwin Title: Senior Director, Program Services
Address P.O. Box 271
City: Orlando State/Province: Florida Zip/Postal Code: 32802
Phone: 407.317.3201 Fax: 407.317.3253 E-Mail: baldwil@ocps.k12.fl.us
District Enrollment: 153,800 Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 16

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- Development of an accountability report that reports achievement data in multiple ways*
- Development of an "Ends Monitoring Report" to report the district's major outcomes to the school board*
- Exploring methods to conduct growth or value-added analysis

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Over emphasis on test scores leading to assignment of grades (A-F) to schools

High politicization or state testing leading to difficulty by state to meet basic requirements of a good testing program

Areas of Interest/Need

Growth models and value-added models of analysis of outcome data

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Prince George's County Public Schools

Respondent: Gene Adcock Title: Director, Research, Evaluation & Accountability

Address 14201 School Lane, Rm. # 138

City: Upper Marlboro State/Province: Maryland Zip/Postal Code: 20772

Phone: 301-952-6240

Fax: 301-952-6199

E-Mail: eadcock@pgcps.org

District Enrollment:

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department:

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- New elementary school accountability system that includes two State student assessments: a State performance test and the norm referenced CTBS.
- SmartViewer web reporting system for evaluation and accountability results.

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Data quality, completeness and standardization in regards to students and teachers.

Translating evaluation results into data based decisions and actions.

Areas of Interest/Need

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Rowland Unified School District

Respondent: Tony Wold Title: Director of Student Assessment

Address 1830 S. Nogales Street

City: Rowland Heights State/Province: CA Zip/Postal Code: 91748

Phone: (626)854-8338 Fax: (626)854-8522 E-Mail: twold@mail.rowland.k12.ca.us

District Enrollment: 18,900 Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 6 FTE

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- Creation of school profiles, Board Accountability Report, State Assessment Data analysis, Calculation of District Multiple Measures system.
- Inservice of teachers and administrators on how to analyze data and take it to the classroom level (using cluster information from tests)

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

Created exclusive API grade-level cohort analysis to determine strengths and weaknesses of program. Used data to develop secondary reading instructional training for teachers in all content areas.

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Moving a district with 35% LEP population forward in student achievement while dealing with a 33% mobility rate

Areas of Interest/Need

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Sacramento City Unified School District

Respondent: Nancy Law Title: Director, Research & Evaluation Services

Address 520 Capitol Mall

City: Sacramento State/Province: California Zip/Postal Code: 95758

Phone: 916-264-4295 Fax: 916-264-4510 E-Mail: nancylaw@cwo.com

District Enrollment: 52,500 Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 13

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- *School Reports on student achievement and success indicators
- *Class Reports on student achievement in standard test cluster skills
- Class Reports on monitoring student achievement in reading during the year
- *Disaggregated school reports by grade, gender, ethnicity, language, program & poverty showing the students in each quarter of the normal score distribution
- *Survey Reports (Student, Teacher, Parent, Principal, Staff)
- *Open Court Curriculum Assessment
- *School Accountability Report Cards for each school
- *Award System for Outstanding Schools and "Schools-On-the Move"
- *Comparison Between Sacramento District, the State & Eight Other Large Districts in California

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

District achievement gains since 1998 have been nearly double the state average gains in reading and mathematics, and have met or exceeded those of eight comparison districts in elementary grades in both mathematics and reading.

Open Court data collection based upon the units covered near the end of the school year and student achievement in reading on the SAT9 were significant and moderately (.50+) correlated.

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Working cooperatively with other departments to ensure appropriate data are collected, available and reported. Working cooperatively within the office to collect, store and share data.

Areas of Interest/Need

To facilitate changes that will improve student achievement by creating new, more graphic score and data reports for district, school and teacher use.

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Saint Paul Public Schools

Respondent: Geoff Maruyama Title: Interim Dir., Research, Evaluation, and Assessment

Address 360 Colborne

City: St. Paul State/Province: MN Zip/Postal Code: 55102

Phone: (651)767-8383 Fax: (651)293-5374 E-Mail: geoff.maruyama@spps.org

District Enrollment: 44,000

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 10 FTE

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- * Use of DISCOVER for identifying students who need to receive gifted/talented services
- How to measure student growth/change using longitudinal data
- Achievement of students living in public housing; effects of neighborhoods and schools
- Assessing effectiveness of precollegiate partnership programs for under-represented students
- Developing accountability systems
- Searching for a new integrated data system to adopt

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

DISCOVER--intriguing, but has technical shortcomings and seemingly fairly modest stability

Public housing--neighborhood poverty is strongly related to student achievement; public housing students are more stable and in some instances perform better in school than other economically disadvantaged students

Even longitudinal tracking of student achievement following cohorts of students is highly variable across time when grades within each school is the level of analysis

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

1. Building an effective accountability system, and how to use longitudinal data to support that system
2. How to identify students in non-culturally biased ways for participation in G/T programs
3. How to effectively educate economically disadvantaged students in various types of housing

Areas of Interest/Need

Models for student growth--value added, change score, structural equation, etc.

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Seattle Public Schools

Respondent: Michael J. O'Connell Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment
815 4th Ave N. (AA-159)
Seattle, WA 98109

Phone (206) 252-0143 Fax (206) 252-0141 e-mail: moconnell@seattleschools.org

District Enrollment: 46,932 FTE in Department: 14

Major Areas of Work:

- Measures of and reporting of School Effectiveness
- Integrating Value-added assessment methodology with traditional uses of assessment data
- Improving Staff and Student Climate Surveys
- Improving dissemination of school/student outcome measures to teachers, schools and public
- Assisting schools and teachers in using data to improve instruction
- Developing and implementing end-of-course exams for secondary schools
- Evaluation of alternative programs designed to help "at risk" students
- Evaluation of summer school effectiveness
- Integrating District accountability systems with State Accountability systems
- Investigating different ways of measuring/reporting changes in Achievement Gaps

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses:

- Nearly all our projects are "works in progress" -- Most seem to never end
- We produce no formal research reports (Staff and time limitations)
- Some evaluations are contracted out to external evaluators who submit evaluation reports

Biggest Challenges Facing District and/or Office:

- Transforming schools so that all students can attain high levels of academic achievement
- More timely and effective use of data to inform decisions at the classroom, school, and district level.
- Finding more time for teachers to do effective planning and professional development.
- Integrating Technology into the curriculum at all grade levels.
- Restructuring high schools to focus more on small learning communities
- Developing District end-of-course exams for secondary schools

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Tacoma, WA

Respondent: Joe Willhoft

Title: Exec. Dir. Of Research and Evaluation

Address PO Box 1357

City: Tacoma

State/Province: WA

Zip/Postal Code: 98401

Phone: (253) 571-1192

Fax: (253) 571-1223

E-Mail: jwillho@tacoma.k12.wa.us

District Enrollment:

Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department:

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

1. * Acquisition and installation of new student data system
2. Design/Implement/Monitor student promotion/retention policy
3. Accountability legislation for schools and districts
4. * Partnership w/ Univ of WA on graduate follow-up survey

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

- > From student data system: Survey of US districts betw. 20,000-75,000 students (268 districts); 51% response rate. Results include student info system now using, when acquired, background database, etc.
- > From grad f/u survey: general description of survey procedures and preliminary results. This was an attempt to gather info on post-hs plans of 100% of 1999-2000 senior class and to conduct follow-up surveys of all graduates.

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Areas of Interest/Need

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Topeka Public Schools

Respondent: Dr. Steve Henry Title: Gen. Dir. Planning, Eval. & Grant Proc.

Address: 624 SW 24th St

City: Topeka State/Province: KS Zip/Postal Code: 66611

Phone: 785-575-6139 Fax: 785-575-6161 E-Mail: shenry@topeka.k12.ks.us

District Enrollment: 14,800 Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 3.5 Professional

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

Assessment-based identification system for identifying students K-2 to participate in mandatory summer school

Student assignment methodology for promoting diversity that is race-neutral and meets OCR standards for strict scrutiny. Uses Census data linked to geo-coded student records at the block group level (Detailed regulation describing the process available).

Local (Not state-based) high school graduation proficiency requirements in reading and mathematics.

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

Ever wish your district collected extensive background information on your students that was part of your student data system? You can “sort of” get it indirectly by geo-coding Census data against student records at the block group level. In the coming months Census 2000 data will become available for this application.

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Endless requests for data as we become a more data-oriented organization.

Areas of Interest/Need

Internet or wide area network delivered assessment systems.

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Respondent: **Nancy R. Baenen** Title: **Sr. Director of Accountability**

Address: **3600 Wake Forest Road**

City: **Raleigh** State/Province: **NC** Zip/Postal Code: **27609**

Phone: **919-850-1952** Fax: **919-850-1861** E-Mail: **nbaenen@wcpss.net**

District Enrollment: **98,000** FTE of Staff in Your Department: 24.5 (11.5 Professional)

Major Areas of Work

We have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- ❖ School Accountability (State ABC's)*
- ❖ Testing for promotion and evaluating impact of new policy*
- ❖ Testing (state & local)*
- ❖ Surveys of parents, staff, and students*
- ❖ Success of extended learning programs*
- ❖ Grant evaluations (magnet, safe schools, class size reduction)*
- ❖ Achievement gap status report*
- ❖ Collaboration with other school districts and with local agencies
- ❖ Grant proposals (e.g., magnet, 21st century)

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

- ❖ Training schools to utilize test results more independently
- ❖ Measuring progress towards meeting the system's achievement goal of 95% of students on grade level on state tests
- ❖ Securing \$16 million in competitive grants since summer 1999
- ❖ 673% increase in Hispanic population from 1990 to 2000 (466 to 3,603)

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Closing the achievement gaps based on free lunch and race

Areas of Interest/Need

- ❖ Ways to organize professional libraries (research reports, articles, books)
- ❖ Creating electronic student report cards linked to assessment data
- ❖ Linking local assessments with state accountability measures

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
2000-2001 Annual Highlights Form

District: Wichita Public Schools

Respondent: Joycelyn Gay Parish Title:

Address 201 N. Water

City: Wichita State/Province: KS Zip/Postal Code: 67220

Phone: (316)973-4730 Fax: (316)973-4726 E-Mail: gparish@usd259.net

District Enrollment: 50.000 Number (or FTE) of Staff in Your Department: 8

Major Areas of Work

I have been working in these areas (Please asterisk areas for which reports are available)

- * Connectedness (School Climate)
- * Class size reduction
- GEAR UP and other grant evaluations
- Development of local benchmark assessments and issues related to OTL

Highlights/Interesting Findings from Reports and Analyses

Please limit to two or three significant highlights

Connectedness (school climate) is significantly related to academic achievement and truancy
School interventions infused with "connectedness" work. Where "connectedness" is lacking,
interventions don't work

Biggest Challenge Facing our District and/or Office

Finding qualified people to staff our facility. We are currently quite under-staffed

Areas of Interest/Need

Web-based reporting
Production of school profiles
Technological advances in data collection/processing/reporting