Developing Measures of Evidence Use to Support Partnerships

October 2, 2023
AGCI Workshop

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Different Kinds of Collaborative Research in US Education

- Community Based Research
- Social Design Experiments
- Networked improvement communities
- Research alliance
- Youth participatory action research
- Research collaborative
- Design-based implementation research
- Collaborative evaluation
- Improvement science
- Research Practice Partnership
What is a Research-Practice Partnership?

A long-term collaboration aimed at educational improvement or transformation through the production and use of research, intentionally organized to engage diverse forms of expertise and to ensure that all partners have a say in the joint work.

Farrell, Penuel, Daniels, Steup, & Coburn, 2021
Evidence of Impact of RPPs

● Emerging research base on RPPs’ progress on their goals:
  ○ Shifts in research focus
  ○ Learning for those involved
  ○ “Uptake” of research findings into policy making
  ○ Development of research-based interventions that can improve student outcomes

● Next frontier:
  ○ Navigating complex systems
  ○ Incredible variation in RPPs
    ■ Goals, approaches, composition, orientation to equity, funding context
  ○ Learning across RPPs as a field

Resources:
- Annotated bibliography of RPPs' progress on range of goals
- Descriptive study of RPPs funded by Institute of Education Sciences
Defining RPP Effectiveness

- 5 Outcomes:
  - Building trust and cultivating partnership relationships
  - Conducting rigorous research to inform action
  - Supporting partner practice organization in achieving its goals
  - Producing knowledge that can inform education improvement efforts more broadly
  - Building the capacity of participating individuals and orgs
Measurement Inquiry Questions

** Constructs **
What are the key constructs to RPP effectiveness?

** Measures **
What measures have validity evidence that can be used to evaluate RPP effectiveness?

** Interpretation + Use **
What guidance, structures, and supports are needed for sensemaking, interpretation and use of evidence generated from the measures and partnerships themselves?
Underlying Design Principles for Evidence-Centered Design


Identify Things People Say and Do, and Meaningful Situations

Design and Test Items, Measurement Tools

Engagement and Use

What are aspects of the thing you want to measure?

What things might people say or do that reveal the different aspects of the outcome?

What items, artifacts, observations will allow you to know where an RPP falls on the outcome?

What conditions support meaningful participation around measures, data gathering, sensemaking, next steps?
Evidence-Centered Design Approach

Update Framework
- Interviews
- Lit review + existing measures
- Convening

Measure Development + Testing
- 65 RPPs, 285 RPP’ers
- Varied by age + approach
- Surveys and interviews

Tools + Guidance
- Evaluator insights
- Prototype design and testing

Participatory, Iterative, Mixed-Methods Approach
Revised and Updated Framework

- **Dimension 1:** Cultivate trust and relationships
- **Dimension 2:** Engage in research or inquiry to inform design and action
- **Dimension 3:** Support partner organization in making progress on its goals
- **Dimension 4:** Engage with the broader field to improve educational practices, systems, and inquiry
- **Dimension 5:** Fostering ongoing learning and development for individuals, partnerships, and organizations

**Revised Dimension Descriptions**

**Revised Indicators**

**Explicit emphasis on equity and power throughout**

**Intentional illustration of variation across RPPs and contexts**
Tools for Reflection

Engaging with the tools will support...

- More robust understanding of RPP health and meaningful collaboration
- Development of shared understandings of what dimensions look like (and could look like) for a unique RPP
- Growth across all the dimensions
- Learning across RPPs

*RPPs will be able to meaningfully adapt tools to their unique contexts, partnerships, and use-cases.*

- Mini Routines (~5 minutes)
- Discussion activities (~30 minutes)
- Reflection prompts
- Survey scales
Today’s Questions

• What is the most compelling evidence about how engaged research and its use makes a difference in your domain?
  ○ Makes a difference...
    ■ For whom?
    ■ For what purpose?
    ■ At what cost/risk?
    ■ With what trade-offs?
  ○ Engaged research as compared to...?
Today’s Questions

- How could investments in engagement be structured to help fill knowledge gaps about how engaged research and its use makes a difference?
  - Surfacing the significant learning (i.e., ways of being, doing, and knowing) required for engaged research for individuals, teams, institutions, funders, community members
  - (Re)designing + enacting an R&D infrastructure that supports new ways of being, doing, and knowing
    - Call for proposals, grant structures, annual reports, coaching, learning across teams

Towards a Field of Collaborative Education Research: Developing A framework for the complexity of necessary learning (2023)