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Dear Colleague,

With spring in full swing, research companies are working with schools to collect year-end data and setting up for next fall's studies. Recruitment is underway for schools to participate in research studies for the fall; in fact, Empirical is actively seeking school districts who may be interested in an elementary math study. (More information below.) We are excited to be working with our partners on a number of proposal opportunities, and this season promises to be especially fast-paced. If you are interested in partnering with us, please give us a call!

Sincerely,

Denis Newman
President

NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH WORLD:

New RFP calls for Building Regional Research Capacity

The US Department of Education (ED) has just released the eagerly anticipated RFP for the next round of the Regional Education Laboratories (RELs). This RFP contains some very interesting departures from how the RELs have been working, which may be of interest especially to state and local educators.

[Read more here...](#)

Quasi-experimental Design Used to Build Evidence for Adolescent Reading Intervention

A study of Jamestown Reading Navigator (JRN) from McGraw-Hill (now posted on our [reports page](#)), conducted in

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, found positive results on the Florida state reading test (FCAT) for high school students in their intensive reading classes.

[Read story here...](#)



The Regional Educational Laboratories



LATEST EVIDENCE:***(Observations and Opinions about Research in Schools)*****A Conversation About Building State and Local Research Capacity**

[John Q Easton](#), director of the Institute of Education Sciences, came to New Orleans recently to participate in the annual meeting of the [American Educational Research Association](#). At one of his stops, he was the featured speaker at a meeting of the Directors of Research and Evaluation (DRE), an organization composed of school district research directors. (DRE is affiliated with AERA and was recently incorporated as a 501(c)(3)). John started his remarks by pointing out that for much of his career he was a school district research director and felt great affinity to the group. He introduced the directions that IES was taking, especially how it was approaching working with school systems. He spent most of the hour fielding questions and engaging in discussion with the participants. Several interesting points came out of the conversation about roles for the researchers who work for education agencies.

[Read more here...](#)

Looking Back 35 Years to Learn about Local Experiments

With the growing interest among federal agencies in building local capacity for research, we took another look at an article by Lee Cronbach published in 1975.

[Read more here...](#)

**CONFERENCES:****[Council for Exceptional Children \(CEC\) 2011 Convention & Expo](#)**

April 25-28, 2011, National Harbor, MD

Empirical Education Inc. presented at a poster session last month. If you missed it and would like a copy of the materials we presented, [contact us](#).

[Summer Forum and STATS-DC 2011 Data Conference](#)

July 25-29, 2011, Bethesda, MD

Empirical Education Inc. will be attending and likely presenting at the Summer Forum and STATS-DC 2011 Data Conference. More information on registering can be found [here](#).

PARTICIPATE IN A FREE PROGRAM PILOT

We are seeking sites for a research study to measure the effects of Math in Focus: Singapore Math, on instructional practices and student achievement as measured by test scores.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Math in Focus is a U.S. edition of Singapore's most widely used elementary math program. This randomized experiment will take place during the 2011-2012 school year. Click [here](#) to learn more about this opportunity.

[Or, sign up now](#) to hear about participating in future program pilots.

Empirical Education Conducts Research in Schools

Empirical Education Inc. helps school districts make cost effective decisions in adopting new instructional and professional development programs. We provide research services to districts, developers, and publishers to determine the effectiveness of programs. We are committed to providing independent, objective evidence while remaining sensitive to the unique context of the local research site. Empirical Education is an advocate for using evidence in policy decisions and provides information and recommendations to trade organizations, policy institutes, foundations, and government entities that make or influence policy and practices in education.

[Learn More...](#)

Questions or Comments?

Contact us for more information:

650-328-1734 x137

or

contact@empiricaeducation.com