

Helping Districts Build Data Analysis Capacity for Continuous Improvement



Empirical Education's participation in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding is focused on providing state and local education agencies with the means to develop capacities for data analysis and evidence-based continuous improvement. We believe that the stimulus funds are an opportunity for agencies to put in place capabilities that will retain value long after these short term funds have been spent.

Districts can use stimulus funds to empower their research and evaluation departments to answer important questions about student achievement, school performance, and the effectiveness of instructional and professional development programs. Continuous improvement driven by local evidence is a practice highly steeped in the principles and spirit of the ARRA. By investing in capacity building over the next two years, this practice can be maintained at an affordable level.

Empirical Education offers to school districts a set of outsourced tools and services called MeasureResults™. MeasureResults makes it easy to design comparisons and conduct the sophisticated statistical computations needed to:

- *Identify the most successful schools*—Contrary to common belief, the most successful schools are not always the highest scoring.
- *Identify trends in achievement*—are gaps between subgroups growing or shrinking?
- *Evaluate new programs for the impact on student achievement*—Generate evidence of the program impact on your local population.

The addition of these capabilities empowers current research and instructional district staff, eliminating the need to hire additional statistical or research analysts. .

Empirical Education conducts rigorous program evaluations for clients around the country. But rather than serving as an external evaluator for school districts, Empirical Education is committed to building the district's own research and evaluation capacity. This approach qualifies the services under many of the ARRA funding streams.

To set up a consultation on how Empirical Education can help your district or state, please contact Kylene Shen at (650) 328-1734 x137 or kshen@empiricaleducation.com.