Partnership for Early Education Research

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Institute of Education Sciences PI Meeting, Washington, D.C.

December 11, 2015

PEER
Partnership for Early Education Research

What is PEER?

- Alliance among early childhood stakeholders in Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford, Connecticut

    – Classroom-level practitioners

    – Administrators

    – Child advocates

    – Policymakers

    – Researchers

- Funded in 2014 by IES

PEER
Partnership for Early Education Research

Origin of PEER

Alignment among Management Team Members

- Shared emphasis on **practitioner**-oriented research that can drive policy and practice

- C.E.S. and PEER serve the same three priority school districts

- Roles of core partners:
  - C.E.S. serves as convener/liaison
  - Yale contributes research expertise
  - EDC contributes collaborative research expertise

PEER Organizational Structure

Affiliate Members

Primary Responsibilities: Input on Alliance research agenda and direction of Alliance & assist with knowledge utilization/dissemination activities. Expert advisors will also review study reports prior to publication.

Larger EC Community

Additional School District Representatives

EC Centers

Home-based Childcare Providers

EC advocates

Community-based organizations

University Depts. of Education and EC preparation programs

Community funders

State Head Start

Expert Advisors
Walter Gilliam
Mike Lopez

Participating Members

Primary Responsibilities: Input on Alliance research agenda, facilitate data collection (primary & secondary) and provide data, participate in Alliance workshops (as appropriate), & assist with knowledge utilization/dissemination activities.

Community Teams Include (at a minimum): School Superintendent or designee, school district director of early childhood, school district data management representative, Head Start representative(s), and School Readiness representative(s).

Bridgeport, Norwalk, & Stamford Community Teams

School District

　Superintendent or designee

　Director of Early Childhood

　Director of Data Management

Head Start

School Readiness

Core Members

Primary Responsibilities for Key Members: Develop Alliance research agenda, facilitate data collection (primary & secondary), review reports, & assist with knowledge utilization/dissemination activities.

Alliance Management Team

Yale University

C.E.S.

EDC

Key Members

CSDE Reps

OEC Reps

Community Team Reps

PEER Goals

Build infrastructure for conducting collaborative research

Collaboratively develop a research agenda

Conduct and use high quality research to guide practice and policy

PEER
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PEER Capacity Building Progress

- Engaged with potential partners

- Held two agenda-setting workshops with stakeholders

PEER Capacity Building Progress, cont.

- Developed communication structures (website and electronic newsletter)

- Applied for research grant involving PEER partners

- Developing data sharing agreements

- Planning to fund research agenda

PEER Website

PEER Newsletter

Potential Research Topics

What's Next for PEER

- Finalize research agenda

- Administer early childhood educator survey on assessment practices (January)

- Organize early childhood conference (Spring 2016)

- Secure funding for pursuing research agenda

Challenges

- Determining what data are available

- Determining best usage of data

- Finalizing data sharing agreements

- Student privacy concerns

Successes

- Buy-in from state and district agencies

- Two agenda setting workshops

- Engagement of key community stakeholders

- Creating connections with other efforts
  - E.g. StriveTogether collective impact initiatives

- Invitations to present about PEER at local venues

Why It's Important to Fund Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships

- Bridges the gap between researchers and practitioners

- Uses resources more efficiently

- Makes data more relevant and useable for guiding practice and improving outcomes for children

- Federal funding can be a powerful incentive for universities and practitioners

How IES can further support R-P Partnerships

- Longer funding period

- Progression of partnership funding

- Opportunities to share ideas about what's working

Thank you!

Learn more about PEER at
http://peer.yale.edu

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