Partnership for Early Education Research (PEER) Research Agenda Workshop, Part 2

Norwalk Community College
October 22, 2015

PEER Management Team

Michael Strambler, Ph.D.
The Consultation Center
Yale School of Medicine
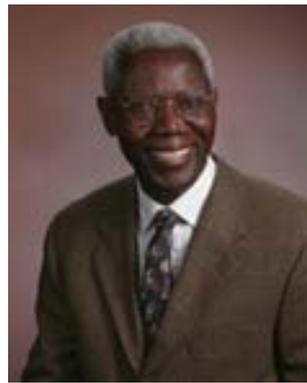
George Coleman, M.Ed.
C.E.S.

Clare Irwin, Ph.D.
EDC

Joanna Meyer, M.A.T.
The Consultation Center
Yale School of Medicine

Introductions

What we've been doing

- Organized results from first agenda setting workshop

- Applied for a new grant from Institute of Education Sciences

- Developed website and communication structures

- Developing data sharing agreements and supports for protecting data

- Planning to fund research agenda

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Brainstormed Research Topics

Two Categories of Research

- Original research involving the **collection, analysis, and interpretation of data**
  - "Original" research
  - Data could be quantitative or qualitative

- Research involving the **review and/or synthesis of existing evidence**
  - Literature reviews
  - Meta-analyses

Various Goals of Research

- To contribute to our existing knowledge
  - Basic and "bench" science
  - *How does our research address gaps in the scientific literature?*

- To determine whether something happened or the extent to which it happened
  - Summative evaluation research
  - *Was what we did effective?*

- To guide practice and/or policy for improving outcomes
  - Formative evaluation, continuous improvement, performance management
  - *How do we use evidence to adjust practices and policies in real time?*

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Researchable questions

- ## What is a researchable question?
  - Reasonable
  - Appropriate
  - Answerable
  - Specific

- ## Where do researchable questions come from?
  - Questions, concerns, and values of stakeholders
  - Important issues in the field or research literature
  - Professional standards or guidelines
  - Views and knowledge of those with content expertise

PEER's Initial Research Questions

Aim 1: To understand children's school readiness as measured by the Connecticut Kindergarten Entrance Inventory (KEI).

- What is the overall performance of children on the Connecticut KEI?

- Are there group differences in performance for gender, socio-economic status (SES), English as a second language status, and race/ethnicity?

- Are there district differences in performance?

PEER's Initial Research Questions (cont.)

Aim 2: To understand the use of assessment tools in the preschool setting.

- – Are there district and setting differences in how formative assessment tools are used in preschool?

PEER's Initial Research Questions (cont.)

Aim 3: To understand which teacher- and school-level factors predict kindergarten performance.

- How do the teacher factors such as level of education, certification, number of years of teaching at the current level, and number of total years of teaching predict kindergarten performance?

- How do school factors such as class size, teacher-child ratio, and SES predict kindergarten performance?

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Research agendas

- ## What is a research agenda?
  - Identifies research priorities and questions for group
  - Is coherent
  - Leads to rigorous and relevant research that is actionable
  - May include current or future projects

- ## What does a research agenda look like?
  - Linear
  - Topical

Example: Coherent, linear research agenda

- Topic: High school graduation
- Research questions:
  - What are the high school dropout rates for key subgroups of students?
  - What are the effects of alternative high school programs on students' degree completion and graduation?
- Studies:
  - Descriptive study of high school dropout rates for key subgroups
  - Descriptive study of re-enrollment rates in traditional high schools and education trajectories of re-enrollees
  - RCT of the impact of alternative programs for degree completion on high school graduation

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Example: Coherent, topical research agenda

- Topic: Mathematics learning
- Research questions:
  - What is the impact of grade 8 students' access to algebra I on their math achievement?
  - How do students with disabilities perform in math?
- Studies:
  - RCT of the impact of student access to algebra I in grade 8
  - Descriptive study of math education practices for students with disabilities
  - Descriptive study of math performance patterns for students with disabilities

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Research Topics Discussion

[Instructions]

Topic Caucus

[Instructions]

Generate Research Questions

[Instructions]

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Next Steps

Research Agenda:

- We will refine research agenda based on today's information

- We'll seek your feedback (and feedback from partners not here) on agenda questions

Other areas:

- Invite some practitioners from school and center-based ECE programs to complete a survey about assessment practices

- Secure funding to support the research agenda of PEER

- Organize an ECE conference for spring 2016

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Thank You!

Visit PEER at:

http://peer.yale.edu

This presentation is based on materials developed and published by the Regional Educational Laboratory, Northeast and Islands
http://www.relnei.org/publications/

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