

New Perspectives on Evaluation at the Institute of Education Sciences

- Evaluations have focused on average impacts of practices or interventions on test scores in reading and math.
- IES is moving to a broader range of evaluation questions and designs.

Expanded Evaluation Portfolio

- Greater attention to how, why, for whom, and under what conditions
- Attention to distribution of impacts across districts, schools, and student subgroups
- Expand standards of evidence and advance methodological expertise in the field
- Providing more timely, more accessible information

- Expanded measures of outcomes—additional academic and non-academic outcomes, moderators, school context, and student characteristics
- Wider lens on implementation of programs and interventions, and improving measures of implementation
 - through different data collection vehicles—surveys, observations, case studies
 - measuring practices not recommended as well those that are recommended, and improving measurement

Examples of New Perspectives from IES Evaluations of ARRA Programs

Integrated ARRA Evaluation

- Look across ARRA education programs at levels of funding and strategies used
- Based on all states, and random sample of districts and schools
- Harvest existing data
- Provide information for technical assistance
- Provide earlier, more focused reports

Teacher Incentive Fund Impact Evaluation

- Separate evaluation competition to demonstrate assessment of teacher and principal effectiveness that result in substantially differentiated financial incentives
- Includes TA in setting up assessment of teacher/principal effectiveness, conducting RA of schools within districts to participate in evaluation, financial incentive to district to participate in evaluation.

Investing in Innovation

- Evidence standards for practices to be implemented, and requirement for evaluation
- TA to grantees on evaluation design and common outcome measures
- Conduct meta-analyses of similar practices and outcomes
- Look at demographic factors related to impacts across grantees.

Impact Evaluation of Race to the Top and School Improvement Grants

- Similarities/Differences in RTT/ SIG grants
- Implementation of four ARRA reform areas and progress on building state capacity—relationship to improved outcomes
- Case studies of decision-making process on school turnaround models
- Measurement of school climate and other contextual factors

- Impact evaluation of SIG funding for school turnaround models at state/district level-- distribution of impacts across state, district, school, student subgroups
- Providing timely information to inform technical assistance
- Producing topical reports on policy relevant issues prior to full report