



**PROVING  
GROUND**

# Design solutions to challenges as unique as your students.

*Proving Ground empowers education agencies to accelerate school improvement by acting on their own data—and building capacity to keep it up.*

## **Make continuous improvement business-as-usual.**

Proving Ground's intuitive continuous improvement approach guides districts in addressing barriers to student achievement by understanding their challenges, identifying possible solutions, testing those solutions, and examining their impact:

- ▼ **Act on expert analysis of your data.** Our team of research analysts dives into your historical data and interviews agency leaders and staff to help you uncover the root causes of your most pressing challenges.
- ▼ **Design solutions with a high probability of success.** We guide you through a step-by-step process to identify, prioritize and design potential solutions customized to your local context.
- ▼ **Rapidly identify and scale what works—and abandon what doesn't.** We help you plan and pilot your solution and we'll let you know the what works and what doesn't in time for you to make effective decisions.

While leading you through Proving Ground's iterative and thoughtful process, we'll help you build the skills to make data use and evidence-gathering an intuitive part of your daily work long after our relationship ends. We'll work with you to ensure that this powerful process aligns with your academic, staffing, and budgetary timelines.

# Learn more and learn faster.

Our partners join a growing network—nearly 60 education agencies that support almost 400,000 students and face similar challenges—allowing them to learn more and learn faster; rather than starting from scratch or reinventing the wheel, partners can adopt solutions other network members find successful and leverage hard-earned insights about effective implementation.

## Our partners see measurable results.

During the 2018-19 school year, two Proving Ground network partners piloted a postcard intervention designed to reduce absenteeism by addressing parents' misconceptions about the value of education in early grades and their child's total number of absences. **The intervention reduced absences by nearly 8% across the districts. That's an estimated 7,000 instructional days gained over the course of one school year!** Learning from these two partners, another three partners piloted these postcards in 2019-20, with similarly promising results.

- ▼ Learn more about piloting this intervention in your school or district with **Proving Ground's How-To Guide** at [provingground.cepr.harvard.edu/resources](http://provingground.cepr.harvard.edu/resources).

# But don't take our word for it.

**"The Proving Ground process imparts a disciplined, rapid cycle approach to decision making that capitalizes on solutions from people closest to the core issues."**

**Dana Godek** | Administrative Director,  
School District of Palm Beach County

**"We have incorporated Proving Ground's analytic process into our work on other issues in our district as well, including revising our Strategic Plan and developing district and building level plans to address academic achievement and climate and culture. We find it to be intuitive and useful for getting input from many stakeholders."**

**Megan Shelby** | Director of Special Pupil Services,  
Maple Heights City Schools

# And that's just the beginning.

We're excited to help our partners address **chronic absenteeism** and **college readiness**, with more focus areas to come. Join us, or learn more about Proving Ground:

- ▼ Reach us at [provingground@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:provingground@gse.harvard.edu)
- ▼ Visit [provingground.cepr.harvard.edu](http://provingground.cepr.harvard.edu)