



PROVING GROUND

ADVANCING EDUCATION THROUGH ACTIONABLE ANALYSIS

Proving Ground, housed at Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR), is a network of education agencies focused on iterative improvement. Proving Ground provides timely, actionable analysis, peer networking opportunities, and change management support.

Our goal is to make evidence-gathering and evidence-use an intuitive part of how education agencies conduct their daily work.

The Proving Ground approach offers a more responsive, pragmatic, and agile analytic cycle that empowers education policymakers and administrators to:

- quickly and reliably assess the impact of investments,
- continuously improve implementation,
- pilot and test new strategies, and
- incorporate new and better evidence into decision-making.

Through our innovative infrastructure, proven analytical expertise, and the power of the Proving Ground network, we offer our partners the advantage of a robust array of tools, trainings and services specifically designed to improve and accelerate their education reform efforts.

FOCUS AREAS

Proving Ground is working with networks in two focus areas: Chronic Absenteeism and Educational Software.



“As a Proving Ground partner, we have the ability to run and test things more rigorously, and we have access to meaningful data and evidence of the effectiveness of our program so that we can make more informed decisions.”

- Amy Hunter
Director of Curriculum and Instruction,
LEAD Public Schools

THE PROVING GROUND APPROACH

Education agencies have implemented data systems which collect and store student, staff, and financial data. Few, however, have been able to fully utilize these systems to support continuous educational improvement. Proving Ground has developed an innovative approach to supplement agencies' capacity to effectively analyze their data to address educational improvement challenges.



DATA AND ANALYTICS

Analysis of program impact

Determine program impact, both overall and by student characteristics, baseline achievement, and other relevant factors.

Rapid-cycle implementation analysis

Review implementation data to identify potential barriers to successful implementation.

Timely, accessible, and actionable reports

Education agencies are provided with an analytic dashboard and online reports.

Evaluation of interventions based on evidence

Receive support in the design, implementation, and evaluation of pilots.

PEER NETWORKING

Collaboration hub

Connect with other partners, share resources, and receive support from members of the Proving Ground community.

Jointly pilot programs

Participate in network-wide pilot programs in order to evaluate program impact.

Virtual webinars and in-person network meetings

Opportunities both virtually and in-person to learn from experts in the field, share practices, and engage in common problem solving.



CHANGE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Action-oriented on-site workshops

Address practical problems using real data to work towards actionable solutions.

Transforming analyses into action

Learn to interpret analyses and develop tactical plans to improve program efficacy.

Continuous improvement

Engage in an evidence-based continuous improvement process.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Proving Ground partners can leverage CEPR's expertise in program evaluation and research to identify and address the most pressing issues on their timeline. Partners will also benefit from Proving Ground's data infrastructure, which pools information across the network to assess program efficacy. Partners will have an opportunity to share practices and answer critical implementation and improvement questions.

RELIABLY ASSESS IMPACT

- Is a given program making an impact?
- For which students and what grade-levels is it making an impact?
- What are the key drivers of impact?
- How does the magnitude of impact compare to other agencies implementing the same program?

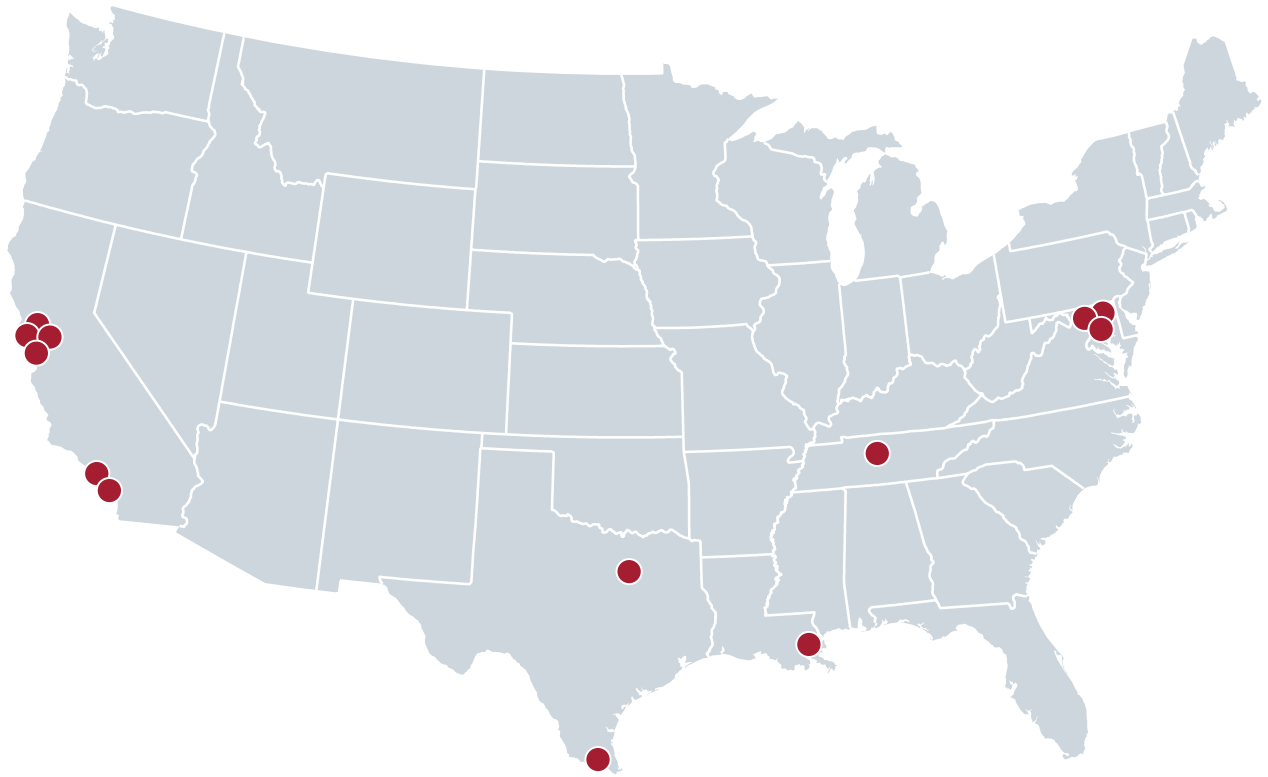
CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION

- Is a given program being used? If yes, by whom?
- Is there equitable access to the program?
- How are other education agencies implementing the program?
- What is the best way to roll-out new strategies and determine if they are improving implementation?

INFORM DECISION-MAKING

- For the level of investment, is a given program having the expected impact for students and is it sufficient?
- How should program support be differentiated to strengthen implementation?
- Is there sufficient capacity to implement the differentiated support and is it scalable?





PROVING GROUND

CONTACT US

Contact us to learn more about the Proving Ground networks.

Bi Vuong, Proving Ground Director | Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University
provingground.cepr.harvard.edu | provingground@gse.harvard.edu

PROVING GROUND NETWORK

Our network of education agencies includes:

- Aspire Public Schools
- DC Preparatory Academy
- District of Columbia Public Schools
- Firstline Schools
- IDEA Public Schools
- KIPP Bay Area
- KIPP DC
- KIPP LA
- LEAD Public Schools
- Oakland Unified School District
- Rocketship Education
- Santa Ana Unified School District
- Uplift Education

CENTER FOR EDUCATION POLICY RESEARCH AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

The Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) at Harvard University is a unique partnership among districts, states, foundations, and university-based researchers designed to leverage the overwhelming amount of data to address education policy questions and improve outcomes for all students.



#EduProving Ground @HarvardCEPR



/HarvardCEPR



/HarvardCEPR