



In order to provide more efficient services and a stronger end product, Research and Development (R&D) tracks all requests for services. These tables summarize all R&D requests that were received during the 2014-15 school year. The department worked with 24 external agencies and 32 internal departments.

Breakdown of MPS Departments and External Agencies Who Used R&D Services

MPS Departments			
Office of the Superintendent Community Engagement Family and Student Services	Office of Innovation Contracted Schools Grants Development Organizational Development Educator Effectiveness Induction & Support Professional Development Innovation Special Projects GE Foundation Grant	Office of School Administration District & Improvement School Safety & Security Community High School King High School Hmong American Peace Academy Thurston Woods Elementary School	Office of Academics Assessment Career & Technical Education College & Career Readiness Curriculum & Instruction Extended Learning Opportunities Music School Nutrition Services Specialized Services Student Information Services Wellness & Prevention
Office of Operations Operations Services		Office of Human Capital Benefits & Retirement Services Employment Relations	
Office of Board Governance Audit Services Government Relations			
Office of Accountability & Efficiency			
Office of Recreation and Community Services			

External Agencies		
Research American Institutes of Research Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin EdAnalytics Medical College of Wisconsin University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Education Center for Urban Initiatives & Research Socially Responsible Evaluation in Education Wisconsin Center for Education Research Waisman Center	Government Harvard University Kent State University Marquette University University of Texas U.S. Department of Education Department of Public Instruction U.S. Army Recruiting	Others Achieve 3000 Canton City School District Next Door Foundation Aurora Healthcare
	Community Partners United Way of Great Milwaukee and Waukesha County Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee Milwaukee Succeeds Great Lakes	

Research

2013-2014

2014-2015

3

4

Research requests may not answer how well a program or policy is working. Instead, these questions may simply describe or help us better understand how various policy and program levers are impacting the district's work. For example, a study examined the district's music program, including certified music teachers, enrollment in music courses and courses offered for the past five years.

Program Evaluation

2013-2014

2014-2015

25

34

These projects focus on specific MPS programs, including traditional academic programs, after school and summer programs and intervention and supplemental programs. The degree of difficulty regarding the analysis of these programs is as varied as the scope and focus of the programs themselves. Some projects were completed in a day or two, while others required a week or more.

Data Extracts

2013-2014

2014-2015

101

91

External Extracts: 38%

Requests for data come in many sizes and serve many purposes. Requests can be simple, such as filling a request for graduation data. At other times, these requests can be more complex, such as compiling metrics for partnership and charter school grants. Requests may be completed using data from the data warehouse, student information system or other existing data files like the Climate or Senior Exit Surveys.

Additional Projects

Comprehensive Evaluation Plan and Asset Mapping

With approximately 77,000 students in more than 160 schools, MPS faces steep difficulties in meeting the needs of student academically, socially and emotionally. In addition to "regular" curriculum and services provided to all students, MPS has contracted (both formally and informally) with numerous service providers to deliver additional programming to meet service gaps. R&D is working with the Office of Accountability & Efficiency to create performance measures for the district's professional services contracts. In addition, the two departments are developing an asset mapping tool to visualize gaps in services.

Research Review

Each month the department featured a district research initiative, focusing on how the research-practice partnership of the initiative helped MPS staff better implement the program, while providing external researchers with findings for further development. Topics included the Tutoring for You (T4U) after-school program, the Carver Elementary School 5-in-1 initiative and the Physical Education Program (PEP) grant.

Commitment Schools and the Reflection Process

Each school met with members of the regional team to reflect on progress made, obstacles and challenges faced and plans for meeting the schools' goals for the 2014-15 school year. The process provided an opportunity for school and district leadership to have a deep conversation about progress with the grant.

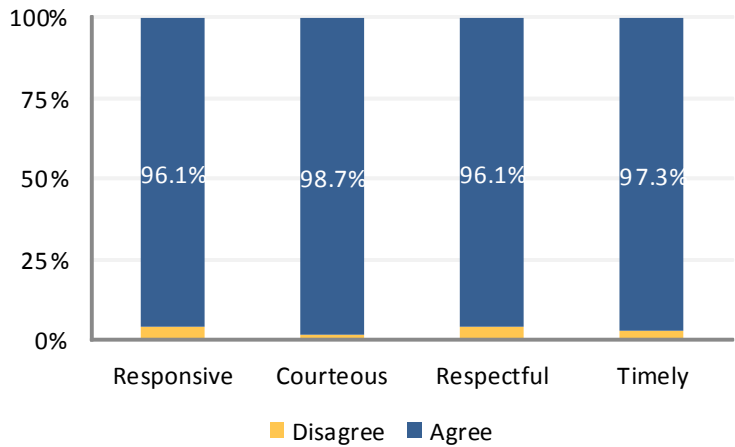
Customer Satisfaction Survey

In an effort to improve the services provided and to gauge the level of customer service offered, Research and Development surveyed their customers from the 2014-2015 school year. Customers, both those served internally from MPS and those served external to the school district, were emailed a brief seven-question survey in May 2015. In total, 76 out of 217 customers completed the survey, for an effective response rate of 35%.

“Quick to respond, kept an open dialogue when our need was not coming across clearly.”

The Research and Development staff were....

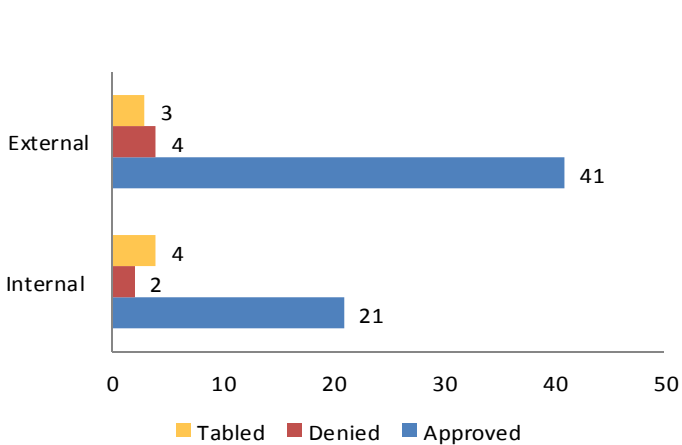
“The team has been extremely collaborative and has always been willing to offer their assistance enthusiastically without violating boundaries. They are an extremely resourceful group and have provided me with some much needed direction in the area of research.”



The R&D team takes the feedback seriously and has a plan to address concerns, including working on the following:

- Simplifying the Reflection Process
- Improving the research application process and manual
- Responding to research and evaluation requests in a more timely manner

Research Applications



2013-2014 2014-2015

90 75

A new research application process was implemented this year. The department met with local universities to explain the district’s research agenda as well as the new process. The department approved 76% of the 75 projects submitted in the 2014-15 school year, down from 82% for the previous school year.

Surveys Administered by R&D

Climate Survey 2.0

The Climate Survey 2.0 is the primary opportunity for staff and students to provide feedback about their school. The survey provides information about five essential supports for school improvement, including effective leadership, ambitious instruction, collaborative teachers, safe environment and involved families.

Grades 4-12

February-March

Senior Exit Survey

MPS is required by state law to report on the status of exiting seniors, and the survey provides descriptive information to key stakeholders on MPS graduates' future plans, aspirations and perceptions of their experiences as MPS students specific to college and career readiness.

Grade 12

Mid-April through the end of the school year

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

The survey focuses on health-risk behaviors that result in the highest rates of death, disability and social problems during both adolescence and adulthood. Results are used to create school health programs to help address these behaviors. Many grants require information from this survey.

Grades 6-12

Mid-February through March

Other Surveys Administered

Surveys for Office of Organizational Development

40

R&D completed 40 surveys, including checks for understanding and perceptions of professional development sessions for district-wide professional development sessions, as well as institutes for principals, assistant principals and school support teachers.

Surveys for Others

80

R&D completed 80 surveys for others, including Parent Involvement professional development, Customer Service and Saturday Academy, to name a few.

In the 2014-2015 school year, the R&D Department completed 120 surveys, but data was not tabulated for particular departments.

About Research and Development

The mission of the department is to lead high-quality and innovative research and evaluation that will positively impact the district's development.

Contact the department at 414-475-8520 or mpsresearch@milwaukee.k12.wi.us