



In order to provide more efficient services and a stronger end product, Research and Evaluation (R&E) tracks all requests for services. These tables summarize all R&E requests that were received during the 2015-16 school year. The department worked with 42 external agencies and 29 internal departments.

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

MPS Departments

Board of School Directors	Office of Accountability & Efficiency	Office of Human Resources	Office of Innovation & Information
Office of the Superintendent		Employee Wellness	
Office of the Chief of Staff Business, Community & Family Partnerships Communications & Outreach MPS Foundation	Office of Academics College & Career Readiness Curriculum & Instruction Extended Learning Opportunities Physical Education & Wellness	Office of School Administration	Grant Development
		Contracted School Services School Services Student Services	Equity & Inclusion Innovation Organizational Development
Office of Board Governance Audit Services Government Relations	Specialized Services	Office of Operations Customer Service Recreation & Community Services School Nutrition	Educator Effectiveness
	Student Performance & Improvement		Induction & Support Professional Development Turnaround Schools

External Agencies

Research			Community Partners
American Institutes of Research	Harvard University	<u>University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee</u>	Beyond the Bell
AMTC & Associates	Marquette University	Center for Urban Initiatives & Research	Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee
Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin	Medical College of Wisconsin	Consulting Office for Research and Evaluation School of Education	City Year
Edvance	University of Connecticut	Socially Responsible Evaluation in Education	Center for Youth Engagement
Empirical Education	University of Oregon		Community Advocates
Hanssen Consulting	University of Texas	<u>University of Wisconsin-Madison</u>	Great Lakes
Hope Lab	Tulane University	EdAnalytics	Milwaukee Education Partnership
ICF	Vanderbilt University	Waisman Center	Milwaukee Succeeds
Government		Wisconsin Center for Education Research	Playworks
U.S. Department of Education	Election Commission	Others	United Way of Greater Milw. & Waukesha County
Department of Public Instruction	U.S. Army Recruiting		Aurora Healthcare Renaissance
Housing Authority of Milwaukee	Milwaukee Public Library		

Research		Program Evaluation		Data Extracts	
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2014-2015	2015-2016	2014-2015	2015-2016	2014-2015	2015-2016
4	8	34	26	91	87

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.

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.

External Extracts: 66%

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. Sixty-six percent of the data extracts processed were external requests.

Additional Projects

Comprehensive Evaluation Plan

R & E is currently piloting the Comprehensive Evaluation Plan, which embeds performance metrics in the contracts of service providers who deliver additional programming to meet service gaps in our schools. One contract was successfully piloted in the 15-16 school year, which has allowed R & E to modify the process to best meet the needs of the district and the participating partners. The Comprehensive Evaluation Plan will expand to include additional content areas and service providers in the upcoming school year.

Reflection Process

The Reflection Process is based on the Focused Conversation model that was developed by the Canadian Institute of Cultural Affairs.[1] It is a series of questions that serves as the process for a school team (e.g. learning team) to discuss a school's strategic plan and progress towards goals in a systematic and sustainable way. The process facilitates a conversation between all participating members to get an overview of the progress and consider next steps. It is important that these conversations are held around data that can lead to meaningful reflection on school-based norms and practices.

[1] Standfield, R.B. (2000). The Art of Focused Conversation: 100 Ways to Access Group Wisdom in the Workplace, Bariola Island, BC, Canada: New Society Publishers.

Research Reviews

The department re-established a monthly Research Review series during the 2014-2015 school year (September through June), in which staff or the district's external research partners present on a relative research topic. Research reviews were held again last school year. The topics for the 2015-2016 Research Review series included:

2014-2015

2015-2016

7

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September	<i>Creating Better Outcomes in a Complex Environment</i> Presented by the Research and Evaluation Staff
November	<i>Collective Impact of the Transformative Reading Instruction Model</i> Presented by Dr. Rachel Lander, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Debbie Kuether, MPS K-12 Literacy Danae Davis, Milwaukee Succeeds
December	<i>The Spark of Literacy: Results from a Randomized Control Trial</i> Presented by Dr. Curtis Jones, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Pat Marcus, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee
January	<i>Data-Based Decision-Making for Improving School Culture and Climate</i> Presented by Dr. Amy Nelson Christensen, MPS Research and Evaluation Dr. Curtis Jones, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
February	<i>The Impact of Play</i> Presented by Dr. William Massey, Concordia University Brett Fuller, MPS Health, Physical Education, and Safe and Supportive Schools P.J. Dever, Playworks
March	<i>Credit Recovery: Helping MPS Students Fill-in Some of the Potholes on the Road to Graduation</i> Presented by Dr. Curtis Jones and Rose Hennessey, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee James Sokolowski, MPS GEAR-UP Coordinator Marc Sanders, MPS Research and Evaluation
May	<i>Towards Contextually Responsive Leadership</i> Presented by Dr. Raji Swaminathan, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Dr. Latish Reed, MPS Equity Specialist

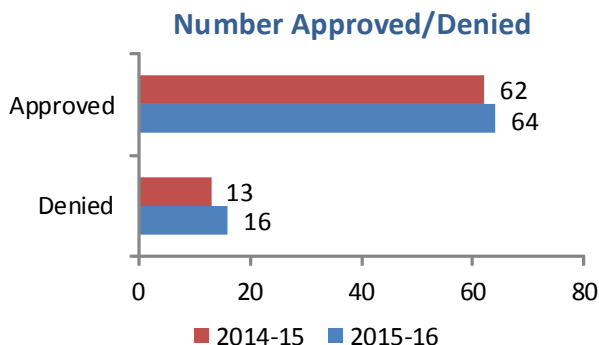
Research Applications

2014-2015

2015-2016

75

80



A new research application process was implemented last year. The department met with local universities to explain the district's research agenda as well as the new process.

The department approved 80% of the 80 projects submitted in the 2015-16 school year, down from 83% for the previous school year.

Surveys Administered by R&E

ESCC Survey

The Essentials of School Culture and Climate Survey 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, Supportive Environment, and Involved Families.

School Staff and Students (Gr. 4-12)
January-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
March through the end of the school year

Other Surveys Administered

Surveys for the Department of Organizational Development

2014-2015

2015-2016

40 60

R&E completed 60 surveys, including checks for understanding and perceptions of professional development sessions for the Department of Organizational Development. Surveys were provided for Educator Effectiveness, all district-wide professional development, as well as the institutes for principals, assistant principals, new educators, parent coordinators, school support teachers, and facilitators.

Surveys for Other Departments

2014-2015

2015-2016

80 74

R&E completed 74 surveys requested by other departments, including PE and Wellness, Innovation, Specialized Services, Customer Service, Recreation, Student Performance and Improvement, Business, Community & Family Partnerships, and Employee Wellness, to name a few.

About Research and Evaluation

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