

National Longitudinal Evaluation of Comprehensive School Reform (NLECSR)

Goal area of the activity

With a grant from the United States Department of Education the National Longitudinal Evaluation of Comprehensive School Reform (NLECSR), conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), National Opinion Research Center (NORC) and the David C. Anchin Center at the University of South Florida (USF), will examine the effects of CSR models on students' reading and mathematics achievement in elementary and middle schools, as compared to similar schools without a CSR model.

Brief Summary

NLECSR is composed of a Core Study, conducted by AIR and NORC, and a Focus Study conducted by USF. The Core Study is in 21 urban school districts across the US and 1200 schools. The Focus Study is an in-depth qualitative study of 5 of the 21 districts in the Core Study and 32 schools. Documents collected at the district and school levels will illustrate key policies and practices, demographics, and prior student achievement via scores from national, state and/or district mandates tests. Interviews, focus groups, and classroom observations will capture the remainder of the data.

Purpose

One of the purposes of the NLECSR study is to gain an understanding of what works in comprehensive school reform and under what circumstances.

Accomplishments/Results

The Focus Study is in the process of collecting qualitative data from the fifth school district. In the first four school districts, we interviewed: 124 teachers, 29 principal/assistant principals, 14 district officials, and 24 community members. We conducted 28 parent, student, and teacher focus groups. We also observed 120 reading/language arts classes and 106 mathematics classes. Lastly, we collected School Improvement Plans from the participating schools as well as district documents and reports.

Plans for the next 12 months

Data analysis and reporting our findings will be the focus of the NLECSR project for the next 12 months.