• Delivering high-quality research and analysis
• Informing the policy debate
• Improving education systems worldwide
TRUSTED OBJECTIVITY

ANALYTIC ACCURACY & SOPHISTICATION

PIONEERING DECISIONMAKING TOOLS

AN ENDURING POLICY IMPACT

GLOBAL REACH
Today’s children are growing up in an increasingly complex and connected world . . . where education stands at the forefront of policy agendas.

Educators and policymakers have a weighty responsibility. High-quality education forms the bedrock of a nation’s economic prosperity and social well-being, and creates the productive citizens of the future.

Nations today have complicated education objectives: nurturing productive citizens, closing achievement gaps, improving underperforming schools, educating underserved populations, ensuring accountability, training and retaining highly skilled teachers . . . the list goes on.

Objective, top-quality research and analysis are pivotal to meeting such objectives. The data needed often go beyond the norm or call for innovative statistical techniques. Many possible solutions are highly charged or controversial, making objective treatment and a neutral tone vital when presenting findings and recommendations.

That’s where RAND Education excels.

We provide state-of-the-art policy research and analysis to governments, private foundations, and philanthropists in the United States and around the world.
A Culture of Quality

Quality is a value that we uphold both informally and formally at RAND Education. Among our staff, it’s an attitude characterized by high standards, a commitment to client service, and a strong desire to make a difference.

Institutionally, it’s an official process of quality assurance that starts at the beginning of a project’s life and continues until we release the final product. Our own research quality coordinator works in consultation with the corporate Office of Research Quality Assurance to administer the process. All of our research products, whether slated for formal publication or not, must undergo quality assurance procedures. Any document to be published must also pass independent peer review.

The outcome is research products that are bulletproof, in terms of their analytic rigor and objectivity . . . and results that clients can depend on to be a cut above the rest.

More Than 30 Years of Landmark Studies

RAND Education has built its authority on studies that have had an enduring impact on the education policy debate and have spurred breakthrough policy change.

1975
Federal Programs Supporting Educational Change (Change Agent Study)
Identified a feature of implementation, “mutual adaptation,” that had previously been unrecognized. Showed that well-intentioned and thoughtfully designed reform policies do not necessarily succeed in practice.

1987
Indicator Systems for Monitoring Mathematics and Science Education
Established how critical it is to view education as a comprehensive, integrated system, whose various elements must be considered together when measuring performance.

1990
High Schools with Character
Identified the essential elements of success in high-performing high schools—especially the key roles of leadership and cultural values.

1994
Student Achievement and the Changing American Family
Used complex models to separate the effect of family-background characteristics on student performance from the effects of school and program policies.
The mission of RAND Education, a unit of the RAND Corporation, is to help improve education policy and decisionmaking through research and analysis.

1998
New American Schools After Six Years
Showed that designs for break-the-mold schools alone are unlikely to effect change; changes to the support structure needed for implementation—particularly district-level infrastructure—are imperative for reform to succeed.

1999
Closing the Education Gap: Benefits and Costs
Established the feasibility of closing the achievement gap between non-Hispanic whites and minorities. Showed that savings on public health and welfare and increased tax revenues from higher incomes would enable gap-reduction measures to pay for themselves within the lifetime of the taxpayers who bore the initial costs.

2000
Class-Size Reduction in California
Demonstrated how even a “proven” intervention, such as reducing class size, can go astray when implemented without the supporting infrastructure of a pipeline of high-quality teachers.

2002
Reforming Qatar’s National Education System
Designed a sweeping structural reform of Qatar’s K-12 education system. Planned and aided in the implementation, working closely with Qatari colleagues. As a result, Qatar adopted internationally benchmarked curriculum standards for the first time and opened new learner-centered schools that, as of 2007, have enrolled more than 50% of students in government-funded schools.
Bringing Clients the Best Talent in the Field

Our people are our most valuable resource. RAND Education’s research staff of more than 50 experts is unmatched in the diversity of their backgrounds and the excellence of their work. More than 70 percent hold PhDs. They include specialists highly skilled in applying breakthrough statistical techniques and other complex analytic tools. Many are internationally recognized for their contributions to the education field.

We can also draw on the expertise of the entire RAND staff, bringing additional capabilities to a research team when needed. Related areas of RAND research include international policy, science and technology, child policy, civil justice, and public safety.

With access to this exceptional pool of talent, we can meet the unique requirements of each study and deliver the results our clients expect.
**Serving an Array of Clients in the Public and Private Sectors**

**RAND Education’s State-of-the-Art Toolbox**

When we design our analyses, we draw on a range of advanced tools and methods that others do not always have available. These techniques enable us to take creative, yet careful approaches to illuminating complicated issues and solving multifaceted problems.

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<tr>
<th>Field surveys &amp; literature reviews...</th>
<th>...define where the field currently stands on an issue and help develop a future agenda.</th>
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<tr>
<td>...stimulate discussion on important issues and provide an objective starting point.</td>
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<td>...point to the policy issues and decisions to be made.</td>
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<th>Major surveys...</th>
<th>...help stakeholders and decisionmakers see issues from multiple perspectives within the education community.</th>
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<th>Statistical &amp; econometric models...</th>
<th>...isolate the effect of specific factors and examine variations by groups.</th>
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<th>Evaluations of interventions &amp; programs...</th>
<th>...link implementation with outcomes.</th>
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<td>...provide a continual feedback loop on the progress of implementation.</td>
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Working Around the World to Improve Student Learning

Globalization, access to new technologies, and the rapid sharing of information have created unprecedented opportunities for countries around the world to improve the quality and effectiveness of their education systems. No matter where a nation is on the development spectrum, better education builds better futures for citizens and drives economic growth.

Each country requires a tailored approach to its efforts to improve education. With experience working in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America, RAND Education has the expertise, flexibility, and intercultural competence to tackle issues in a wide range of environments and cultures.

Our teams never take a “cookie-cutter” approach to policy options. We look at the particular cultural context and values in which a country’s education system is rooted, national goals, the challenges and costs involved, and what the data indicate will best enable that country’s students to realize their full potential.
Communications and Outreach That Shape the Policy Debate

Cutting-edge research stops short without cutting-edge communications. Our forte is knowing how to put out reports to increase impact.

- Our core values of quality and objectivity apply not only to our research designs, but to all of our communication products.
- Our publications are designed both to meet our clients’ information needs and raise the public’s awareness of key issues.
- Our forums and conferences bring policy experts and other stakeholders together in high-profile settings for discussion, debate, and learning.
- We take a proactive stance to outreach. Our researchers support their publications with op-eds, briefings, congressional testimony, lectures, interviews, and media comments.

Bearing the authority and reputation of the RAND name, our communications help our clients get the education issues they care about into the public eye.

You can find more at [www.rand.org/education](http://www.rand.org/education)
The RAND Corporation at a Glance

**Mission**  
Helping improve policy and decisionmaking through research and analysis

**Core Values**  
Quality and objectivity

**Founded**  
1948

**Size**  
950 professional research staff

**Services**  
Policy research and analysis, consulting on strategy and operations, policy implementation

**Global Headquarters**  
Santa Monica, CA

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RAND Education
Credentials You Can Count On

- More than three decades of experience in shaping education policy
- Unmatched authority and a sterling reputation
- Expertise in tackling particularly challenging or complex problems in the education world
- State-of-the-art analytic tools and methods
- Multidisciplinary teams that combine research excellence with hands-on experience in the field
- Comprehensive outreach that gets results into the news and to decisionmakers
- A proven track record in the United States and abroad
For 60 years, decisionmakers in the public and private sectors have turned to the RAND Corporation for objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing the nation and the world.

www.rand.org/education

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