

The American Educator Panels

Innovative Tools to Take the Pulse of America's Educators

The American Educator Panels give voice to teachers and school leaders, providing policymakers, practitioners, and the public with accurate information about educators' knowledge, attitudes, practices, and working conditions.



Evidence You Can Trust

The AEP offers:

- High-quality data from scientifically drawn, probability-based samples of teachers and principals
- Ability to track educator-level trends using a longitudinal panel
- Capacity to produce state-level estimates for teachers in 20+ states
- Programming and statistical support, including provision of weighted data files
- Access to RAND content experts for consultation on item development
- Opportunity to collaborate with RAND project teams
- Option to employ innovative item types and administration methods (e.g., videos, app-based administration)
- Opportunity to develop best practices (e.g., recruitment experiments) via a research-based approach
- Access to data-visualization tools
- Opportunity to access and share data with the broader research community

There Is a Critical Need for Information from America's Teachers and Principals to Guide Education Policy and Practice

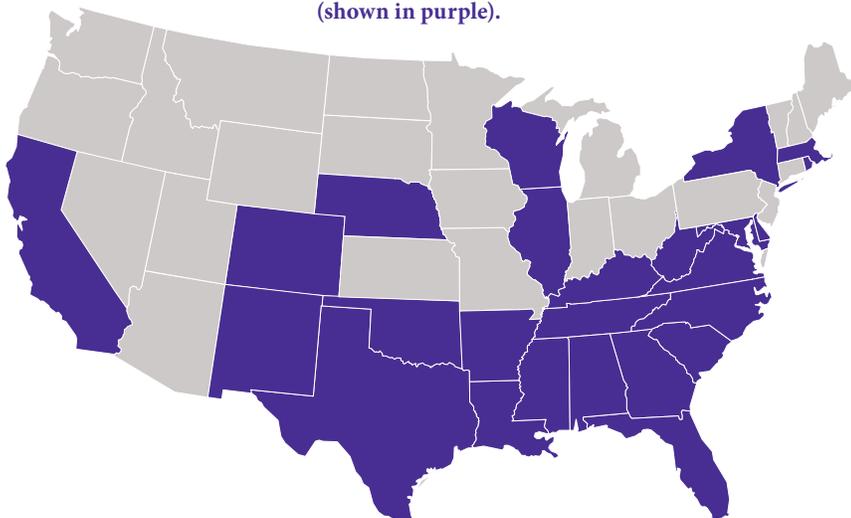
The adoption of new policies like the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), revisions to state standards and assessments, and new curricula that address a range of academic and non-academic outcomes require that teachers and principals develop new knowledge and adjust their practices. Important questions, requiring rapid responses, must be addressed if these policies are to have a positive impact on students:

- What do educators (teachers and school leaders) think about key education policies?
- Are educators prepared to transform the curricula in their schools?
- What kinds of professional development and other support do educators receive, are they aligned with new policies and standards, and are additional supports needed?

- How much time is required for educators to understand and implement a new policy?
- What kinds of obstacles do educators encounter along the way, and how do they overcome them?
- Do novice and experienced educators respond differently to new demands and pressures?
- To what extent are educator attitudes and practices associated with school characteristics (e.g., size, grade span, region, family income level)?
- How do changing working conditions, including support for educator development, affect teachers' and principals' career paths and related decisions?

Quick, accurate answers to these and other questions can help practitioners and local, state, and national policymakers, as well as other stakeholders, respond effectively to provide the best education for all of America's students.

Figure 1. The American Teacher Panel is nationally representative and is able to produce representative estimates for 25 states and New York City (shown in purple).



NOTE: This map is accurate as of February 2019.

Taking the Pulse of America's Educators on a Regular Basis

The American Educator Panels comprise the nationally representative American Teacher Panel (ATP), which is also representative of 25 states, plus New York City (see Figure 1), and the nationally representative American School Leader Panel (ASLP). The panels consist of more than 25,000 public school teachers and more than 5,000 principals who respond to online surveys several times per year. The panels were launched in 2014, with significant expansions in the 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 school years.

How Do the Panels Work?

The American Educator Panels are designed to allow teachers and principals to respond to surveys quickly and easily. The panels dramatically reduce data collection times by eliminating the recruitment phase; when a survey is ready to be fielded, data collection is typically completed within one month. Using RAND's online panel tools, researchers and survey administrators can closely monitor and communicate survey results and completion rates.

The size of the American Educator Panels allows targeting of teachers and school leaders based on school size, grade span, region, poverty level, and other factors. Teachers may additionally be targeted or compared based on experience level and subject area. Such flexibility allows not only for precise estimates of national or state responses but also permits subanalyses based on school and teacher variables.

Participants who change schools remain on their respective panels, and we add new members periodically to ensure that the panels remain representative of teachers and school leaders over time. Because the panels survey the same teachers and principals at regular intervals throughout their careers, the information they provide helps clarify the effects of reforms on teachers and principals over time, as well as how these reforms are likely to affect student outcomes.

How Can Organizations and Researchers Use the American Educator Panels?

The American Educator Panels serve as resources for RAND and education researchers nationwide, providing



tools for organizations seeking timely, accurate information from teachers and/or school leaders on a variety of relevant topics or policy reforms. Qualified researchers and organizations can purchase access to the panels to field their own surveys, with American Educator Panels staff providing support on questionnaire development, sample design, and survey administration. Preliminary results and the final data sets are easily accessed online. RAND is also open to proposals for recruiting additional teachers in states not currently represented in the panel to produce additional state-level estimates.

RAND provides access to the American Educator Panels data through a web-based portal to enable secondary analyses by external researchers. More information about access to AEP data is available on our website.

RAND Research and the American Educator Panels

With the assistance of our partners, RAND reports the findings of its surveys to panel members, the public, and policymakers so that they can follow the changing responses of educators nationwide. Below is a sample of publications from RAND studies that have used the American Educator Panels; a full set of publications is available on our website at www.rand.org/aep.

Changes in What Teachers Know and Do in the Common Core Era: American Teacher Panel Findings from 2015 to 2017
www.rand.org/t/RR2658

Support for Instructional Leadership: Supervision, Mentoring, and Professional Development for U.S. School Leaders—Findings from the American School Leader Panel www.rand.org/t/RR1580-1

A Nationwide Look at Teacher Perceptions of Feedback and Evaluation Systems: Findings from the American Teacher Panel
www.rand.org/t/RR2558

RAND is also releasing results through Data Notes, which provide brief analyses of teacher and principal responses to one or two survey questions on policy-relevant topics, such as principal effectiveness, discipline reform, and social and emotional learning. The Data Notes are available at www.rand.org/aep/data-notes.

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The American Educator Panels are supported by the following partners and sponsors:

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The American Federation of Teachers
The National Association of Elementary School Principals
The National Association of Secondary School Principals
The National Education Association
The University Council for Educational Administration

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The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decisionmaking through research and analysis. The AEP is part of RAND Education and Labor, a division of the RAND Corporation that conducts research on early childhood through postsecondary education programs, workforce development, and programs and policies affecting workers, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy and decisionmaking.

Contact Us

If you would like additional information about the panels or would like to use the panels in your research, please contact us at 1-800-419-9566 or aep@rand.org, or visit the AEP website at www.rand.org/aep.

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