

A blue-tinted background image showing three educators standing together in the upper half and one educator leaning over a desk to assist a young student in the lower half. The educators are diverse in age and ethnicity. The student is wearing a face mask and is focused on a task on the desk.

THE AMERICAN EDUCATOR PANELS

Taking the Pulse of America's Educators

The RAND American Educator Panels (AEP) provide rapid insights about educators' knowledge, attitudes, practices, and working conditions. The panels consist of teachers, principals, and district leaders from across the United States who represent various district and school sizes, grades, regions, economic levels, and other factors. Their answers to surveys provide the critical voices of educators on important education policies and issues.

You can run your own surveys using the AEP. For pricing and more information, visit www.rand.org/aep.

The AEP include the American Teacher Panel, the American School Leader Panel, and the American School District Panel.



Impact

AEP findings are regularly presented in the RAND AEP Data Note series; covered by national and educational news outlets; and shared through briefings, commentaries, and webinars. AEP data sets are also available for free through the RAND AEP Data Portal.

INFORMING POLICY AND PRACTICE BY PROFILING CHANGES AND TRENDS



EDUCATIONAL DISPARITIES. To immediately assess how the COVID-19 pandemic widened ongoing disparities in the education system, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights turned to AEP data and analysis. The office depended on AEP surveys to inform policymakers about how many families of color lost contact with their children’s schools early in the pandemic and the ways in which necessary individualized services for students with disabilities were significantly interrupted in most schools.

The American Instructional Resources Survey (AIRS), fielded through the AEP, gave insight into technological disparities affecting students of color and students in high-poverty and rural school districts.



INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL USE. The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) relies on the AEP to provide annual data on the use of high-quality K–12 instructional materials across the country and in those states participating in the CCSSO High-Quality Instructional Materials and Professional Development Network (IMPDN). CCSSO’s 2019-20 annual report and guidance to states draw heavily on AEP data and analysis to make the case for state policies that encourage use of standards-aligned curriculum materials for mathematics and English language arts.

In October 2021, an AEP survey demonstrated that the use of standards-aligned materials across the United States and in the IMPD Network continues to rise. The results of the 2021 findings were shared with practitioners, policymakers, and the public via a webinar and a public report.

SURVEY TOPIC EXAMPLES



How did teachers cope with the rapidly changing COVID-19 environment?



How many math and English language arts teachers are adopting standards-aligned materials in their classes?



Do teachers have what they need to effectively teach English learners?

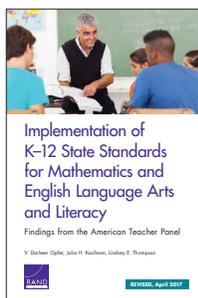
Answers to these questions and many others have informed policy and practice and have helped keep the policy education community up to date on today's most pressing issues.



COVID-19 IMPACTS. When the pandemic disrupted education across the country, AEP staff launched some of the nation's first representative surveys on the crisis to understand how teachers, schools, and districts were addressing remote learning, student disparities, learning loss, parental concerns, school readiness, and more. Findings were shared in venues across the country, including CNN, C-SPAN, NPR, *USA Today*, and the *Washington Post*.



TEACHER WELL-BEING. Teaching is a high-stress profession with a lot at stake. RAND researchers surveyed teachers through the State of the U.S. Teacher survey and other surveys to understand the stressors that teachers faced before and during the pandemic and the working conditions that led them to want to leave teaching. Findings from the State of the U.S. Teacher survey have been cited in hundreds of media reports in outlets from *TIME* to *Good Morning America*, and RAND's report on teacher stress made Edutopia's list of the ten most influential research studies of 2021. The Education Commission of the States used the analysis to inform its state-level focus on teacher attrition.



STATE STANDARDS. In 2015, RAND began a landmark study to understand how K–12 state standards for career and college readiness were being translated in classrooms across the United States. The study produced numerous reports shedding light on what teachers knew about their state standards, what standards-aligned materials they used in their classrooms, and their standards-aligned practices. In particular, RAND's AEP research in Louisiana as part of that project demonstrated that state department of education practices—and emphasis on coherence—may have influenced teachers' greater standards-aligned knowledge and practice in Louisiana.



25,000+
TEACHERS

American Teacher Panel



7,000+
PRINCIPALS

American School
Leader Panel



850+
DISTRICT LEADERS

American School
District Panel

Support

The AEP are supported by the following partners and sponsors:

PARTNER AND SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

AASA, The School Superintendents
Association

The American Association of Colleges
for Teacher Education

American Federation of Teachers

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Charles and Lynn Schusterman

Family Philanthropies

National Association of Elementary
School Principals

National Association of Secondary
School Principals

National Education Association

University Council for Educational

Administration

Walton Family Foundation

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 1-833-634-1533 or aep@rand.org, or visit the AEP website at www.rand.org/aep.

ABOUT RAND AND RAND EDUCATION AND LABOR

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.

IMAGE CREDITS: Cover--shock/Adobe Stock, Drazen/Adobe Stock; page 2--Seventyfour/Adobe Stock; page 4--manonallard/Getty Images.

For more information on this publication, visit www.rand.org/t/CPA168-1.

CP-A168-1