



Research & Program Evaluation Office 2016 Annual Report

The [Research & Program Evaluation Office \(RPEO\)](#) of the Madison Metropolitan School District is one of three offices within the Department of Research, Accountability, & Data Use. This year, RPEO developed many exciting new resources and reports in support of our goal of providing high-quality analysis and reporting designed to support continuous improvement at all levels and strategic planning around district priorities. In this report, we outline major RPEO accomplishments from 2016.

In 2016, RPEO produced 51 formal [reports](#). Many were shared with the Board of Education and the public, while others were for internal use only. These reports ranged in scale from in-depth research reports and program evaluations (covering topics such as the district's [Information & Technology Plan](#) to [2016 Senior Survey Results](#) to the [Fall 2016 Affirmative Action and Attrition Report](#)) to data updates (such as the [ACT & Aspire Scores Report 2015-16](#) to [Enrollment Reports 2016-17](#) to [Hmong Student Data Update 2015-16](#)). Ten different staff and interns either authored or co-authored at least one report. In addition to formal reports, RPEO staff prepared hundreds of briefing sheets, data updates, and supporting evidence for district leadership, central office and school-based staff, and the Board of Education. Some highlights from other areas of RPEO work are listed below.



Quantitative Work

- **Data Dashboard** – The [Data Dashboard](#) reached record highs for use during the 2015-16 school year, with more than 218,000 events.
- **Visual Analytics** – Several new [visual analytics](#) were produced and made available to the public, including visualizations of human resources data, student home languages, and MAP scores. RPEO staff presented in national venues on this work, including a webinar for [District Administration](#) and at [Tableau Conference 2016](#).
- **District Annual Report** – The district's [Annual Report](#) included data compiled, analyzed, and presented by RPEO. RPEO plays a continued role in determining appropriate metrics and goals for the Strategic Framework.

Qualitative Work

- **Feedback Analysis** – RPEO staff structured protocols, collected input, and analyzed interview and focus group data, including feedback on the [Special Education Plan](#) and [Building Excellence](#).
- **Climate Surveys** – RPEO administered and analyzed the district's parent, student, and staff [Climate Surveys](#). This year's version included interactive resources and research reports [linking climate to academic achievement](#).
- **Survey Work** – RPEO staff led recurring surveys and consulted on the development, administration, and analysis of 30 additional surveys on topics such as middle school start times and [seniors' post-graduate plans](#).

Mixed Methods Work

- **Program Evaluation** – RPEO staff began work on major plan evaluations through the district's [Evaluation and Review Cycles](#). We completed an implementation evaluation of the [Information & Technology Plan](#) and started work on an evaluation of the Behavior Education Plan, to be published in 2017.
- **Building Excellence** – RPEO staff led two project areas (community growth and engagement) and supported others for [Building Excellence](#), the district's long-range facilities plan. This work included qualitative data collection and analysis, consultant support, and creation of interactive visualizations.

Systems and Structures

- **Madison Education Partnership** – RPEO staff have spearheaded the creation of this research-practice partnership with the [Wisconsin Center for Education Research](#), with a first year research focus on 4K.
- **External Research Support** – RPEO staff coordinated [committee review](#) of 67 external research proposals, which resulted in 35 new studies approved during 2016.
- **SIP and COMP Process** – RPEO continued to lead the [School Improvement Plan](#) and [Central Office Measures of Performance \(COMP\)](#) process. This year's highlights include a transition of all forms into the Google environment and integrating progress monitoring into the templates.
- **New Staff and Interns** – RPEO welcomed two new [staff members](#) – Amanda Oleson and Grady Brown. RPEO also hosted four graduate student interns from UW-Madison who completed summer research projects.