

Educare National Evaluation Partner

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From 2005 until 2026, a team of researchers, programmers, and other staff at FPG served as the National Evaluation Partner for the Educare Network. Members of the National Evaluation Partner team collaborated with and served our Educare partners in a variety of ways.



Leading the Educare National Evaluation

The Educare National Evaluation ensured a common set of data collection tools across all Educare schools to document the features of Educare and how implementation of the model contributed to program quality and linked to child and family outcomes. These data were used in the local research-practice partnerships, at the Network level, and for dissemination to contribute to the national conversation about young children, families, and schools.



*Local Research-Practice
Partnership*



*Network Research-Practice
Partnership*



National Research

Our longitudinal dataset with common data across 25 schools uniquely positioned the Educare Network to contribute to national-level early care and education research, resulting in dozens of articles in scientific journals and other outlets, book chapters, doctoral dissertations and master's theses.

A battery of common measures was selected and refined over the years with input from local evaluation partners, (LEPs), school leaders and staff, and national partners. Each LEP collected parent, staff, classroom, and child data for their local Educare school (including but not limited to the common measures required for the Educare National Evaluation).

FPG's Role

FPG served as the data center for the Educare National Evaluation, including:

- Advising on study design, measure selection, analysis, and interpretation;
- Establishing secure data collection;
- Creating systems for data sharing by LEPs;
- Developing protocols;
- Overseeing reliability and other quality control;
- Supporting reproducibility, de-identification, and data sharing;
- Managing and analyzing longitudinal and cross-site data:

- Providing documentation
- Conducting data cleaning and harmonization across sites
- Managing data over the course of the study
- Supporting analytic planning aligned with study design
- Conducting statistical analysis and reporting for the longitudinal and cross-site data;
- Developing data visualization reports; and
- Disseminating results within and outside the Educare Network.



Participating in Educare Network Collaborative Structures

The Educare Network utilized various structures to facilitate collaboration and provide guidance to Network leaders.

FPG and an Executive Director of a local Educare school co-led the Educare Research, Evaluation and Data Strategy (EREDS) Work Group. Over the years, members included representatives from Network leadership, the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, practice leaders from local Educare schools, and LEPS. The EREDS Work Group was the first point of contact for new proposals to study innovative practices or interventions, add measures to the battery of common measures, or disseminate results that included two or more Educare sites (papers, presentations, Insights, etc.). EREDS helped Educare leaders and researchers gather useful data that might have both internal data strategy uses and external field impact.

FPG co-led the Educare Measurement and Assessment Committee (EMAC) to address measurement issues within the National Evaluation protocol, including issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. EMAC included Educare school leaders (e.g., school directors, family support supervisors) and LEPS.

FPG contributed to the planning and content of the annual Educare Network Meeting, when an Educare school welcomed parents, school leaders and staff, and local evaluation partners from across the Network as well as national partners to share their work and learn from one another. From 2006-2025, Educare research and data featured prominently in these convenings.

FPG participated in other collaborative structures within the Network over the years, including the Educare Policy Workgroup and various ad hoc planning and steering committees.



Facilitating a Community of Practice for Educare Researchers

FPG supported our local and national research partners through daily technical assistance, monthly virtual convenings, and an annual in-person meeting. In addition, FPG researchers participated in convenings of Educare Executive Directors and local evaluation partners prior to Educare Learning

Network annual meetings, and FPG analysts and programmers provided technical assistance to support collaboration among LEPs on cross-site studies.

LEP Community of Practice

FPG organized monthly virtual community of practice meetings to support researchers across the Educare Network in:

- Advancing racial equity through their research practice partnerships and field impact;
- Participating fully in the Educare National Evaluation; and
- Engaging effectively with Network partners.

Data Camp

Local evaluation partners for Educare schools convened in Chapel Hill annually with national partners to collaborate on research-related activities, including planning studies, co-authoring publications, and sharing best practices for local research-practice partnerships with their schools and communities. Read more about the annual [Data Camp](#).



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