

ADVANCING EDUCATION RESEARCH AND SERVING THE PUBLIC GOOD

WWW.AERA.NET

MISSION

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) is the largest national interdisciplinary research association devoted to the scientific study of education and learning.

Founded in 1916, AERA's mission is to:

- Advance knowledge about education
- Encourage scholarly inquiry related to education

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 Promote the use of research to improve education and serve the public good

AERA exemplifies and promotes the highest standards of research through its code of ethics, its high-quality merit review process, and its published guidelines for the field such as *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. AERA fosters innovation in research and learning, builds research capacity, and connects high-quality research with practice and policy. The association serves as a trusted source of guidance and information.

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Located in every U.S. state and in 85 countries worldwide, AERA's 25,000+ members are committed to high-quality research that yields cumulative and replicable findings of value for improving education. AERA members produce and disseminate knowledge, develop new research methods and measures, and promote the use and application of research results.

Association members are committed to making their research accessible to all who may benefit from it. They are quoted in the media, participate in public briefings, testify on Capitol Hill and in statehouses, and regularly engage with education practitioners and policy leaders.

AERA members work in many important fields, including:

- College Access and Completion
 Learning and Instruction
- Curriculum Effectiveness
- Early Childhood Education
- Education Leadership
- Evaluation and Assessment
- Instructional Technology
- Language and Literacy

- Professional Education
- School Safety
- Socio-Emotional Learning
- STEM Education
- Teaching and Teacher Education
- Workforce Readiness

In addition to education research, association members are drawn from disciplines such as economics, sociology, statistics, psychology, anthropology, political science, history, philosophy, and many more. They work in universities and other academic institutions, research institutes, school systems, federal and state agencies, testing and measurement companies, and nonprofit organizations.

AERA members include:

25,000+

MEMBERS

Faculty Researchers **Evaluators** Graduate Students **University Deans Research Directors Higher Education Administrators**

MAJOR AERA ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

The work of the association spans a rich array of strategic programs and projects designed to advance knowledge; inform and enhance research practice; foster the development, understanding, and application of high-quality education research; and strengthen communication and collaboration between researchers and policymakers and practitioners.

ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES MORE THAN 2,600 SESSIONS AND 14,000 ATTENDEES

EVENTS

AERA convenes and connects scholars worldwide to advance new directions in research and learning. The association's annual meeting, with more than 2,600 sessions, 10,000 presenters, and 14,000 attendees, is the largest gathering of education researchers in the world. It is a showcase for groundbreaking studies in many areas—from early education through higher education, from digital learning to second-language literacy.

Throughout the year, AERA undertakes and supports research conferences that bring together top scholars to explore new directions in substantive areas of inquiry from the Common Core State Standards and student vocabulary assessment, to early childhood education and college rankings.

AERA's *Brown* Lecture in Education Research, presented each year by a distinguished scholar notable for significant research on education equality, regularly draws hundreds of attendees to Washington, D.C., and is viewed live by many more online.

PUBLICATIONS

AERA publishes the field's leading research through seven peer-reviewed journals. The newest, *AERA Open*, is one of the first open-access journals from a major scholarly society in social science.

Articles from AERA journals are regularly covered in the national media and education trade publications. Complimentary subscriptions to AERA journals are available for journalists on request.

Drawing on prominent experts, AERA research books provide authoritative information and insights on a range of key topics of interest not only to researchers but also to practitioners and policymakers.

Recent and forthcoming books address prevention of bullying in schools and colleges, LGBTQ issues in education, the impact of classroom discussion on student achievement, and engaging student interest in science and mathematics learning.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

AERA pursues a range of projects to advance the field of education research, promote cutting-edge study, fund promising research that informs policy and practice, connect scholars, and enhance public awareness and knowledge.

Key activities include the AERA Grants Program, which, with support from the National Science Foundation, provides grants and capacity building for early career researchers to conduct advanced statistical analyses related to STEM education and learning; the Research Conferences Program, which stimulates new lines of study on important issues; and the Education Research Service Projects program, which encourages researchers to offer their expertise pro bono to educational organizations and community groups.

The association is also committed to data sharing and access, the responsible conduct of research, and open dissemination of scholarly work. AERA collaborates on a data sharing archive with the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. Through public education and advocacy efforts, the launch of *AERA Open*, and other innovative open-access publishing initiatives, AERA is helping to lead a transformation to a more open and equitable knowledge community.

PUBLISHES SEVEN HIGHLY RESPECTED RESEARCH JOURNALS

PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

AERA is committed to promoting the highest standards for the field, building research capacity among scholars, and engaging in activities that promote knowledge and enhance research skills.

The association introduces undergraduate students to the education research field, provides postdoctoral fellowships that support researchers in academic and non-academic careers, and helps graduate students and early-career scholars develop a research agenda and begin their careers.

Through professional development and training courses and workshops including the AERA Virtual Research Learning Center—AERA ensures that students, early-career and advanced scholars, practitioners, and others in the education research community have ongoing opportunities to enhance, expand, and refresh their research skills.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

FOUNDED IN

1916

AERA serves as the national voice for the field of education research. By sharing news, information, resources, and expert commentary, and regularly engaging with external and internal audiences through its website and social media channels, AERA works proactively to build awareness and appreciation for the value of highquality education research.

The association connects policy and opinion leaders with cutting-edge research and prominent scholars in the field. Through news releases, position papers, briefings, and other activities, AERA provides information and resources relevant to public and policy debates and promotes pertinent research findings to audiences beyond academia.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

As the primary advocate for federal funding of education research and sound science policy driving federal investment, AERA monitors federal legislation, policies, and regulations affecting education research and the social sciences. Through Capitol Hill briefings and exhibitions, AERA works to raise awareness of the important and innovative contributions of federally funded education research.

The association engages with federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health. AERA actively participates in coalitions of scientific organizations to effectively support funding and resources for federal research and statistics.

AERA also coordinates the Organization of Institutional Affiliates, a network of deans at schools of education who are interested in federal education research policy.

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WHAT IS EDUCATION RESEARCH

Education research is the scientific field of study that examines education and learning processes and the human attributes, interactions, organizations, and institutions that shape educational outcomes. Scholarship in the field seeks to describe, understand, and explain how learning takes place throughout a person's life and how formal and informal contexts of education affect all forms of learning. Education research embraces the full spectrum of rigorous methods appropriate to the questions being asked and also drives the development of new tools and methods.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON AERA NEWS

Email **communications@aera.net** to subscribe to *AERA Highlights*, the association's monthly newsletter, or to receive AERA news releases.

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