



Why do we engage in a research-practice partnership?

We join research and practice to increase educational equity by enhancing the opportunities of historically underserved groups. We work locally but believe what we learn in Madison can also inform us as we strive for educational equity in other places. MEP creates a space for researchers and practitioners in Madison to collaboratively engage in high-quality, problem-based research that contributes to policy, practice and broader understandings of educational processes

What resources do we bring to this work?

We leverage the strengths of UW faculty, staff, and students, as well as MMSD staff, students, and parents. We can use MMSD existing administrative data and the expertise of their Research & Program Evaluation Office staff. We have MMSD and UW leadership support and existing relationships within and across organizations. We also have a community network to connect us to Madison's greater strengths and challenges.

How do we do this work together?

We are mutualistic, with shared power between members of the school district and the university. We are committed to equity and reducing gaps in opportunity and achievement. Our partnership is built on trust and an understanding of mutual, long-term benefit.

What do we do?

We produce original research on mutually agreed upon problem(s) of practice that results in research briefs, academic publications, memos and presentations. We build capacity to produce, understand and use research in MMSD by facilitating research opportunities, and creating venues to discuss findings. We connect research findings to broader conversations about educational equity and outcomes through meetings, presentations, blog posts, and podcasts

What will change as a result of our work?

In the short term, we will integrate research into discussions around MMSD programs, policy, and practice; develop capacity of MMSD staff to produce, understand, and use research; foster work from UW researchers that is tied to district problems of practice in collaboration with MMSD and produce high-quality, publishable research that is enabled by the relationships we have built and continue to sustain.

In the long-term, we will improve experiences and outcomes for MMSD students and increase equity in outcomes for MMSD students. We will also enhance the educational research capacity of the University by building relationships that facilitate deep, sustained and genuine collaboration around significant problems of practice in education.

