

MID-YEAR REVIEW

ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATES + NEW MEMBER

The Advisory Council met twice to hear about our 4K and Mental Health work, provide feedback on the full-day 4K evaluation report, and provide insight into how to connect interested people from UW/MMSD with one another. This year, [David Klingbeil](#) (UW Assistant Professor of School Psychology), will join the council!

AFFILIATE UPDATES + MMSD MEMBERS

The UW affiliates met in November to hear about the different projects and talk about problems and successes that arise in their partnership work. Going into 2024, MEP has made the affiliate title official for three of our MMSD partners. Kristen Guetschow, Patti Schaefer, and Culleen Witthuhn will join the group!

INTERN UPDATES + NEW MEMBERS

Three interns joined our MEP team from UW's [Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences](#) (ITP)! The six interns met in October to hear about the projects and provided valuable feedback to improve their intern experiences. We have been working on some shifts to support their work, including a Google folder of shared resources!



TUTORING PROJECT KICKS OFF

We know MMSD MS math achievement is lower than we want and not improving. We also know that big disparities continue to exist among student groups.

Additionally, tutoring has been proven as an effective intervention to change this trajectory, with documented best practices (see our [MEP tutoring memo](#), [one-page summary on implementation](#), and [the related article](#)). With this information, we have been meeting with MMSD and UW since May 2022 to explore the idea of a tutoring intervention focused on middle school math.

Lisa Hennessey, UW research scientist and C&I teaching faculty, and Patti Schaefer, MMSD's Director of STEM are working to build the training for this tutoring project. We will be working to pilot this intervention in the spring to prepare for a fall kick-off for the project.

Theory of Action

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.

WHAT'S COMING IN 2024?

Full Day 4K Evaluation Report

Rebecca Bier (MEP) has worked alongside Culleen Witthuhn (MMSD) to evaluate differences in literacy, numeracy, and executive functioning in a second cohort of students. The team also followed 119 22-23 4K students into 5K to assess gains in learning once they leave full/half day 4K. Hailey Love (MEP affiliate) also observed in classrooms and interviewed teachers to examine qualitative differences in instruction, time use, and culturally responsive practices across 4K and 5K. By April, we will be publically releasing our Second Year Evaluation of Full Day 4K.

Post Secondary Project

What can MMSD do to strengthen the supports we offer to students as they make their way into and through higher education? Eric Grodsky (MEP Co-Director) and Eric Lequesne (MMSD) are taking a data-driven approach to answer this question, predicting postsecondary outcomes based on third-grade achievement, attendance, and behavior and looking at programs and practices that make it more likely those with low probabilities of going on to college attend and complete a degree.

Mental Health

Katie Eklund, MEP Co-Director, has been working in partnership with Kristen Guetschow, MMSD Director of Mental Health, and Nelsie Stern, Journey Mental Health REST Program Manager. Together they are evaluating rates of mental health concerns among middle school students and how schools are using universal screening data to connect students with mental health supports at school and in the community. With grant support from the UW Prevention Research Center, the team will continue this line of research in the new year by conducting focus groups with students to learn more about their experiences with mental health services.