

Education Northwest
JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Senior Researcher

Grade Level: 12

Exempt/ Non-exempt status: Exempt

Job Objectives/ Summary: The Senior Researcher will be responsible for designing and conducting research on K-12 education policies and programs. Qualified candidates will demonstrate their ability to lead projects through all phases of the applied research process, including study design, instrumentation, data collection, analysis, and reporting. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are essential. Senior Researchers must be able to speak and write clearly to a variety of audiences, including practitioners, policymakers, and technical experts. Work occurs in a friendly, fast-paced team environment where we value providing excellent service to our multiple client communities and the ability to collaborate and manage work on multiple projects at the same time.

Job Responsibilities:

Supervisory Responsibility: None

- Building strong relationships with external clients (including state and local education agencies) in the Northwest region by providing problem-solving, analytic technical assistance, and research and evaluation support
- Working with staff and state and local agencies to identify available data for analysis, evaluate data quality, combine data sources, and make recommendations regarding fitness for use
- Assembling, cleaning, managing, documenting, and analyzing large longitudinal data sets derived from multiple sources
- Performing core analytic tasks and statistical procedures
- Analyzing qualitative and quantitative data using appropriate methodology
- Writing and presenting key research and evaluation findings to variety of external audiences including researchers, practitioners and policymakers
- Working in collaborative teams to design practical tools such as data displays, summaries and indicator reports for decision-making in a variety of settings
- Working in collaborative teams to build the capacity of educators and policy makers to pose actionable questions and apply educational research and data analysis in their local settings
- Serving as a principal investigator and/or project coordinator on evaluations or other similar projects

- Contributing to the development of new projects and proposals as needed
- Perform other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications

- Ph.D. in educational or public policy, applied social sciences or related field
- Five years demonstrated expertise and experience in quantitative or mixed methods educational research
- Four years' experience translating complex research findings and results into usable reports, visually appealing displays, summaries and tools that can be easily accessed and used by educators and policy makers for decision-making at the school, district, and/or state level
- Three years' experience leading research projects or evaluations
- Demonstrated ability to speak and write clearly about complex technical topics, including to non-technical audiences
- Experience using STATA for data analysis and management
- Successful experience writing proposals and developing new business preferred
- Experience using interview, focus group, and classroom observation methods preferred
- Experience integrating quantitative and qualitative methods and working knowledge of software for qualitative data analysis preferred
- Experience providing evaluation technical assistance preferred
- Experience working with data of varying quality and from varied source systems preferred
- Knowledge of current research and practice in at least one of the following content areas: college and career readiness and success, educator effectiveness, school improvement, special education, English Language Learners, or literacy policy and practice preferred
- Experience working with state and district data systems and knowledge of enterprise data management systems/tools preferred
- Willingness and capability to work as part of a collaborative team

Problem Solving:

- Prioritizes personal work to meet deadline requirements, including due dates for multiple, time-sensitive reports
- Selects appropriate methods and techniques to address research questions
- Selects data and evidence to use in technical assistance and evaluation
- Determines how to structure reports and presentations to meet needs of varying audiences
- Stays abreast of research
- Initiates collaboration with others for the completion of projects