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Harvard PPIE

District of Columbia Public Schools (DC), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools (NC), Prince George's County Public Schools (MD), and Baltimore City Public Schools (MD)

Project Synopsis:

UPD assisted the Harvard Program for Policy Innovation in Education (PPIE) in conducting a diagnostic on the data systems present in four large urban school districts to build value-added teacher effectiveness measures and to build drop-out early warning systems.

Lead Firm: UPD Consulting
Project Manager: Bryan Richardson
Project Time Frame: March 2008 to May 2008

Project Background:

PPIE sought to build a longitudinal data set with pilot districts to investigate the application of value-added teacher effectiveness measures and early warning systems for student dropouts. UPD was hired to conduct an on-the-ground inventory of the student, personnel, and assessment data systems at the four districts. UPD inventoried the presence or absence of roughly 100 data elements needed to build value-added measures and early warning systems. For data elements that spanned multiple systems and/or years, UPD matched common records into a single integrated data set.

Project Outcomes:

UPD built a comprehensive inventory of all target data elements for a 10-year period and created two integrated data sets used by PPIE to conduct research on value-added metrics and dropout early warning systems. UPD also memorialized the data cleansing and integration process in a report for the districts that identified the most critical sources of data quality problems with recommendations for improvement.

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