



LOUISIANA'S VALUE ADDED TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT MODEL

2003-2004

The Louisiana Board of Regents is testing the use of a new Value-Added Teacher Preparation Program Assessment Model that will have the capacity to examine the growth of achievement of children and link growth in student learning to teacher preparation programs. Dr. George Noell, a researcher in the Department of Psychology at Louisiana State University and A&M College, has worked with the Board of Regents and Louisiana Department of Education to test three value-added models using achievement data for students in grades 4 through 9 from ten school districts.

On August 25, 2004, Dr. Noell reported to the Board of Regents that preliminary analyses indicate that it will be possible to use Louisiana's student achievement databases to pilot the use of an assessment model to examine the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs in Louisiana. Dr. Noell's preliminary findings indicate that children being taught by new teachers from teacher preparation programs did not demonstrate as much growth in English/language arts as children being taught by experienced teachers. However, new teachers were generally similar to experienced teachers in mathematics for the graduates of the three institutions examined.

2004-2005

During 2004-2005, the Board of Regents contracted Dr. George Noell to replicate the 2003-2004 study, determine the extent to which the results would be comparable using two years of data; examine the extent to which estimates of teacher efficacy would be reliable from one year to the next; and examine technical and practical feasibility of conducting cross-classified analyses using recently produced commercial available software. On August 24, 2005, Dr. Noell reported that preliminary findings indicate that although there were some differences, the models were strikingly similar across years and school districts in Louisiana. It was determined that new teachers from one institution in the state again demonstrated greater growth in mathematics achievement than students of experienced teachers. In addition new teachers from one institution taught children who demonstrated similar growth as experienced teachers in the areas of reading/language arts. Based upon results of this study, the State made a decision to further explore the use of a Value-Added Teacher Preparation Program Assessment Model in Louisiana.

2005-2006 and Future

The Board of Regents is funding a study to examine the technical qualities and adequacy of the Value-Added Teacher Preparation Program Assessment Model when using data across all 68 school districts in the state. The study will be conducted by Louisiana State University and A&M College, and Dr. George Noell will seek to establish the reliability of the value added assessment, determine the amount of data needed to obtain stable estimates, determine the validity of the value added assessment estimates, extend the work to early literacy, extend the work to educational leadership variables, and examine a broader array of variables.

During 2005-2006, the Louisiana Board of Regents is also funding a research team composed of researchers from four Louisiana universities to conduct qualitative research to do the following: better understand the connections between the value added student growth data for grades 4-8 and the university preparation of new teachers; help new teachers in pilot schools effectively use data from the value added study plus appropriate professional development that results in improved learning in grades 4-8 students; and have universities and personnel in pilot schools work together to develop simulations that can be used in teacher preparation programs to prepare new teachers in grades 4-8 to analyze their own student growth data and seek out professional development that will assist them in improving student learning.

For More Information:

Please contact: Dr. Jeanne M. Burns, Associate Commissioner for Teacher Education Initiatives, Board of Regents/Governor's Office, jeanne.burns@la.gov; or Dr. George Noell, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University, gnoell@lsu.edu. An on-line report describing the results of this study can be located at the following URL: http://asa.regents.state.la.us/TE/value_added_model.

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