The Abt Advantage

From the ABCs of reading to the DNA of science, education helps people succeed. That’s why Abt finds ways to make education fulfill its promise. Our studies cover education from early childhood to adulthood and emphasize supporting disadvantaged and underrepresented students. We develop rigorous methodologies to help federal, state and local policymakers and education professionals determine which policies and programs work and suggest how to fix what doesn’t. Through our technical assistance, we enable stakeholders to implement best practices. The work we do empowers children, youth and adults to develop the skills they need to find success after graduation.
Literacy and STEM

Measuring the metrics that matter in education

Abt has a long history of evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of reading and literacy programs. Our work includes analyzing strategies for building early learning literacy, including assessment of innovative tutoring programs for young children and new elementary reading curricula. Additionally, we’re looking at how academic language skills can narrow achievement gaps and summarizing the evidence supporting different reading programs.

We’re also national leaders in the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and policy. We evaluate programs that promote collaboration among scientists, develop high-quality STEM teachers and encourage students to take an interest in STEM topics.

During the typical school year, Abt measures outcomes for 1 to 2 million students nationwide and professional development support for approximately 20,000 educators.

SUPPORTING LITERACY IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

IN MALAWI, WE’RE WORKING TO:

- Build Capacity
- Measure and Monitor Outcomes
- Open Access to Data

TO IMPROVE READING SKILLS AND LITERACY FOR STUDENTS
Early Childhood

Learning for a lifetime, right from the start

Abt has more than 40 years of experience analyzing programs that prepare young children to succeed. We evaluate the effectiveness of national and local early childhood programs, emphasizing improved outcomes for disadvantaged children. We’re assessing the Massachusetts Preschool Expansion Grant program’s implementation, cost-effectiveness and impact on student outcomes—particularly on readiness for kindergarten, proficiency in math and reading and vocabulary acquisition.

We also help policymakers and leaders identify features of high-quality early education systems. For example, Abt is currently working with Harvard University to conduct the Early Learning Study at Harvard (ELS@H), which will follow approximately 5,000 three- and four-year-olds from across Massachusetts and shed light on how families access different forms of early care and education. The project will answer fundamental questions such as: What types of early childhood education experiences do three- and four-year-olds have? What combinations of care (both center-based and in-home care) are families using for their children?

Abt’s study of the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program WILL HELP more than 30,000 culturally and linguistically diverse CHILDREN in 33 STATES.
Post-Secondary Education

Developing evidence that guides students to success

Preparing students to enter and complete postsecondary education is crucial to helping them forge rewarding careers and to meeting workforce needs. Abt designs and conducts rigorous evaluations of postsecondary preparation programs and strategies, from high school coaching to smartphone applications that increase student persistence in—and the likelihood of completing—college. We’re investigating a combination of interventions within Upward Bound, as well as the implementation and effects of customized text messaging in GEAR UP. Both are federal programs that promote postsecondary readiness among high school students. Moreover, we help clients identify evidence-based practices, translate them for wider use, and disseminate them for scalable postsecondary success.

In leading the What Works Clearinghouse Postsecondary Education, Postsecondary Preparation, and Evidence Reporting (WWC-PEPPER) project, we review postsecondary research against What Works Clearinghouse standards; produce timely and relevant products that synthesize evidence from those reviews; and strategically target key stakeholders who want to adopt, develop or scale postsecondary interventions.
Bold Ideas. Real Results.

Abt Associates is an engine for social impact, dedicated to moving people from vulnerability to security. Harnessing the power of data and our experts’ grounded insights, we provide research, consulting and technical services globally in the areas of health, environmental and social policy, technology and international development.

Key Focus Areas

- Education
- Environment & Energy
- Food Security & Agriculture
- Governance & Justice
- Health
- Housing, Communities & Asset Building
- Workforce & Economic Mobility

Cross-Cutting Core Capabilities

- Communications & Behavior Change
- Data Capture & Surveys
- Digital Transformations
- Research, Monitoring & Evaluation
- Technical Assistance & Implementation

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