

# Research Prospectus



PROGRAM EVALUATION • SURVEY DESIGN • DATA ANALYSIS

DATA WAREHOUSING • APR REPORTING

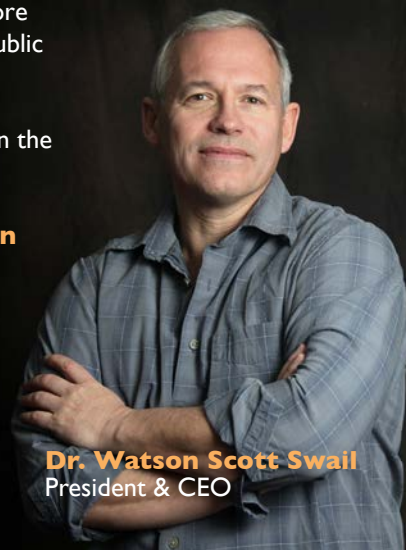
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE • PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RETENTION CONSULTING • STRATEGIC PLANNING • EVENT PLANNING

**In 2002, I created the Educational Policy Institute** to fulfill a need for more rigorous educational research and to create better linkages between research and public policy. Over a decade later, EPI provides research design and management, program evaluation, policy analysis, and technical assistance to school districts, institutions of higher education, governmental organizations, and other international stakeholders in the educational and public policy arena.

EPI is a **Certified Small Business (SBA)** and **US Department of Education ED-SAT contractor**. We work throughout the education continuum, including pre-K, elementary and secondary, postsecondary, and workforce development. Our clients have included the US Department of Education, Lumina Foundation for Education, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Council on Disability, and many others. In addition, the EPI Foundation provides special focus on critical issues in educational opportunity research.

Perhaps we can help you, too. Email us at [info@educationalpolicy.org](mailto:info@educationalpolicy.org).



**Dr. Watson Scott Swail**  
President & CEO

## EPI CORE AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- **Early Childhood.** EPI conducts research and evaluation on early education and reading, including evaluations of the US Department of Education's *Reading First* program.
- **Students with Disabilities.** EPI has worked with the *National Council on Disability* on several projects, studying the linkage between No Child Left Behind and the impact on students with disabilities and state educational systems. As well, EPI currently serves as the prime contractor on a five-year, \$4 million study for the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) at the U.S. Department of Education.
- **Early Intervention/Outreach.** EPI conducts research, writes publications, and provides professional development opportunities on early intervention and pre-college outreach programs.
- **Student Graduation/Retention.** EPI conducts research on district and state-level reforms and provides professional development opportunities to help educators keep students in secondary school and on the pathway to college.
- **College Access, Student Aid, & Affordability.** EPI is well versed in student financial aid, postsecondary access, and affordability issues. The EPI Website provides publications and reports on these and associated issues. EPI publishes the weekly *Swail Letter on Higher Education*.
- **Cost Effectiveness Analysis.** EPI conducts cost effective analyses (CEA) to help organizations and institutions determine the return on investment for their interventions and processes.
- **Postsecondary Retention & Success.** EPI is one of the premier leaders in student persistence and success. EPI publishes *Student Success* magazine and conducts several conferences and workshops each year on these issues.



### GRANT WRITING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The **Educational Policy Institute** often partners with educational agencies to respond to Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from government agencies, philanthropies, and other organizations. EPI can help by providing the research and evaluation infrastructure while also filling the role as third-party evaluator. Contact us to learn more about how EPI can help.

# WHAT WE DO

**PROGRAM EVALUATION.** EPI conducts evaluations of educational programs and interventions. This evaluation work includes evaluation design, implementation, and analysis, and includes the development and use of surveys, interviews, focus groups, and data analysis. EPI's work in this field includes both formative and summative evaluations, including impact evaluations to determine the utility of programs and strategies on student learning and progress as well as return on investment analyses to assess the best use of project funding. We help organizations understand what works and what doesn't.

**RESEARCH DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT.** EPI designs and directs small, medium, and large-scale research projects to answer questions that help us better understand the education system, how students learn, and how we can improve systems and strategies to improve the education process. EPI's work in this area includes the design and implementation of experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental studies, formative and summative research, survey development, site-based research, including focus groups, interviews, and document retrieval/review, and data collection and analysis. Our research team has extensive experience in data analysis using all major statistical programs, including SPSS, SAS, HLM, Excel, and Access.

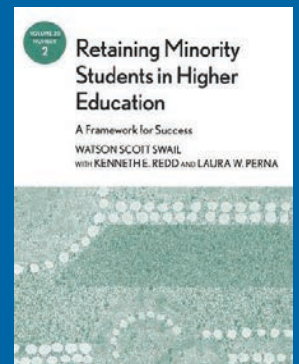
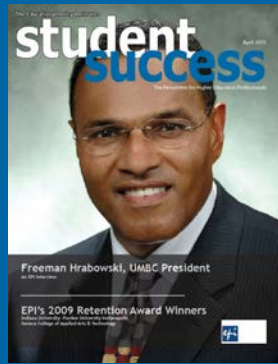
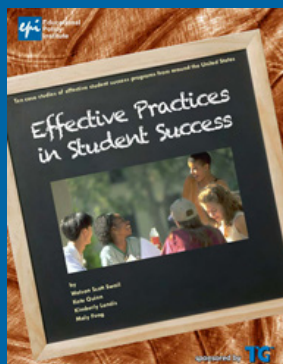
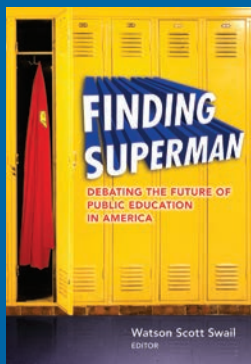
**POLICY ANALYSIS.** EPI conducts policy and trend analyses on a variety of educational issues related to educational preparation, matriculation to postsecondary studies, and postsecondary success. EPI policy briefs address issues such as federal and state/provincial policies and institutional/school policies and practices. In addition to these efforts, we also conduct reviews of related research, legislation, and literature.

**DATA SERVICES.** EPI provides data services for organizations in the form of data collection, warehousing, and dissemination. EPI has developed numerous surveys and administered these instruments to a large number of students, and also has the internal capacity to build data tools and warehouses to store and retrieve data in a timely fashion. EPI has developed its own longitudinal data management system—the EPI Data Analysis System, or EPI-DAS—for use with large-scale evaluation projects. EPI-DAS enables individual student unit record data to be loaded directly into the system that facilitates data collection, descriptive analysis, and reporting.

**CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS.** EPI coordinates conferences, workshops, and webinars focused on critical education issues. For several years, EPI has conducted the Retention 101 workshops around the US, Canada, and beyond for practitioners and higher-education leaders. The Bi-Annual EPI Forum on Education and the Economy is an important event, as well as the EPI National Capitol Summit held in Washington, DC. Over the past decade, EPI has conducted over 50 professional development events.

**KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION.** EPI publishes regular articles, papers, and publications on a variety of education issues, all available at [educationalpolicy.org](http://educationalpolicy.org). Included is the weekly Swail Letter on Higher Education, Student Success emagazine, and publications based on our research.

**CONSULTING.** Through our research expertise, we provide a solid foundation of empirical support for our partners and clients. Some of the areas include professional development, benchmarking, change management, leadership development, team building, and policy development. EPI assists institutions in the planning and implementation of new programs to improve student retention, complete with diagnostics and analysis of current conditions and practices.



# CURRENT AND RECENT PROJECTS

- Evaluation of the College Success Foundation — District of Columbia, [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation \(2015\)](#)
- SAVE the Children Bangladesh Cost Effective Analysis, [SAVE the Children, International \(2014-16\)](#)
- OSEP Personnel Development Program (PDP) Data Collection System, and Scholar Data Report (SDR) and Service Obligations Tracking System (SOTS), [Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\), U. S. Department of Education, Washington, DC \(2012-2017\)](#)
- Training Cost Comparison Study of Anesthetists in the UK, South Africa, and Zambia, [Tropical Health & Education Trust \(THET\) \(2015-16\)](#)
- Evaluation of the Arizona State University (ASU) Preparatory Program Investment in Innovation (i3) Grant, [Arizona State University, AZ \(2014-2019\)](#)
- Thematic Report on Teaching and Learning via the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), [OECD \(2015\)](#)
- Academic Excellence through STEM Innovation, A Race to the Top (RTTT) Grant, [St. Vrain Valley Schools, CO \(2013-2017\)](#)
- Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) Compliance Monitoring, [US Department of Education, Washington, DC \(2011-2014\)](#)
- Evaluation for Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant, [Lawrence County School District, Monticello, MS \(2009-2013\)](#)
- Evaluation of the St. Vrain Investment in Innovation (i3) Grant, [St. Vrain Valley Schools, CO \(2010-2015\)](#)
- Miami University of Ohio Teaching American History (TAH) Evaluation, [Miami, OH \(2010-2015\)](#)
- Consulting Services to Assess Demographic Trends in the Commonwealth of Virginia in Relationship to Student Enrollment and Retention, [Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA \(2012-13\)](#)
- Assessing Program Performance and Planning Next Steps for the Title VI UISFL, BIE and NRC Programs, [US Department of Education, Washington, DC \(2011-12\)](#)
- Evaluation of Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant, [Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, OH \(2008-2013\)](#)
- Evaluation of the Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy, [Pittsburgh Public Schools, Pittsburgh, PA \(2009-11\)](#)
- Texas High School Project Evaluation: Expansion of Scope, [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\), Austin, TX \(2009\)](#)
- Study of District Practices in the Evaluation of Professional Development Initiatives in the State of Alabama, [Southeastern Regional Educational Laboratory/Alabama State Department of Education, Montgomery, AL \(2009\)](#)
- Statewide Evaluation of the Iowa Reading First Program, [Iowa Department of Education, Iowa City, IA \(2007-08\)](#)
- Development of Evaluation Framework for the Teaching with Primary Sources Program, [The Library of Congress \(2008-10\)](#)
- The Role of College Access Programs in College Completion, [TG Public Benefit Grant, Round Rock, TX \(2010-11\)](#)
- Evaluation of the Teacher Immersion Residency Teacher Quality Partnership Grant, [Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia \(2009-2013\)](#)
- Evaluation of the European Union Centres Programme in the Industrialised Countries, [The Evaluation Partnership Limited/The European Union \(2010\)](#)



The **Educational Policy Institute** is based in Virginia and provides research, policy, and evaluation services to education-based organizations in the United States, Canada, and beyond. Here is a sampling of our current and prior clients:

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation  
Arizona State University  
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation  
Center for Higher Education  
and Policy Studies (CHEPS)  
College of William & Mary  
Colorado Commission on Higher Education  
DeVry, Inc.  
The Evaluation Partnership (UK)  
Florida Council on Education Policy, Research,  
and Improvement (CEPRI)  
The Ford Foundation  
Hampton City Schools  
Imagine America Foundation  
Iowa Department of Education  
Kaplan Higher Education

Kentucky Council on  
Postsecondary Education  
Lawrence County School District  
Library of Congress  
Lumina Foundation for Education  
Miami University (Ohio)  
National Action Council for Minorities  
in Engineering (NACME)  
National Council on Disabilities (NCD)  
Newport News Public Schools  
North Carolina Department of  
Public Instruction (NCDPI)  
Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)  
Organization for Economic Cooperation  
& Development (OECD)  
Ohio Board of Regents  
Ohio College Access Network (OCAN)  
Ohio Dominican University

Old Dominion University  
Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
Palm Beach Community College  
Pew Hispanic Center  
Pittsburgh Public Schools  
SAVE the Children  
School Board of Osceola County, Florida  
St. Vrain Public Schools  
Southeastern Regional Educational Laboratory  
Texas Education Agency (TEA)  
TG  
Tropical Health & Education Trust (THET)  
University of Wisconsin System  
US Department of Education  
Westat  
WestEd  
Western Interstate Commission  
on Higher Education (WICHE)