

Program Evaluation of High Operational Practices (HOPs) with Six Osseo Area Elementary Schools

Introduction and Overview

The National Urban Alliance evaluated the effectiveness of a schoolwide implementation of High Operational Practices (HOPs) for the 2023-2024 school year. Specifically, we sought to understand the effectiveness and impact of High Operational Practices on student learning and teaching efficiency.



Methodology

Between April 2024 and May 2024, several in-person focus groups were conducted with 100 students, paraprofessionals, and teachers in their respective schools. The focus group method is used to ask about attitudes or feelings towards a service, idea, or project. They are conversational in nature and small (i.e., 3-8 participants at a time). They are often used when there is a need to gain a large amount of information in a short time span (Johns Hopkins University, 2024). In this program evaluation, students were segregated into focus groups based on their grade levels in the home school, while adults were segregated into focus groups based on their positions (e.g., paraprofessional teachers vs certificated teachers) and place of employment (one of the six schools).



Schools. Six schools participated in this program evaluation. They include Birch Grove Elementary, Crest View Elementary, Fair Oaks Elementary, Garden City Elementary, Oak View Elementary, and Rush Creek Elementary.

Findings

Thematic findings from respondents indicate that student voices were supported through collaborative practices, student voices heard in classrooms, students provided support with problem solving, and students supported with confidence and encouragement. Educator themes noted shifting from teacher centered practices to student centered environments. Supporting this shift to student centered practices included stronger classroom relationships, culturally responsive teaching practices, a deeper understanding of better teaching. and giving students more voice in the classroom space.



Recommendations

We recommend that district leaders, school leaders, educators, families, and students continue to further their goals of eliciting student High Intellectual Performance (HIP) through the use of High Operational Practices (HOPs). The meaning they bring to their understanding of this evaluation through shared learning will likely support, sustain, and enhance their pedagogical practices in support of success for each student

Read the complete evaluation on the NUA website: www.nuatc.org

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