Welcoming Schools Pilot and Evaluations

Eleven schools in five districts located in California, Massachusetts and Minnesota participated in a mixed-method evaluation incorporating both an in-depth process evaluation (with qualitative components) and a traditional outcome evaluation (with quantitative components.) The majority of the participating schools were urban and had student populations that were diverse in terms of race, economics and family structure.

Key Significant Outcomes

Pre- and post-implementation surveys of administrators and educators found:

- Positive improvement in school diversity climate. **Almost 60 percent of the educators indicated that their school’s climate around diversity was better** in May than it was in the prior September.

- Reduction in teachers’ concerns regarding their own lack of training or resources from 54 percent to 28 percent.

- Reduction in teachers’ fears of parental dissatisfaction from 52 percent to 30 percent.

- Positive difference in believing that children of every age could benefit from discussing gender roles and expression and families with LGBT parents.

- Growth in positive intentions to address topics of diversity including families with LGBT parents and gender roles/ expression in their classrooms and schools.

An Evaluation of the Welcoming Schools Guide Pilot for Use in Elementary Schools. Laura A. Szalacha, PhD.

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