



Evaluation, research, accountability, and continuous improvement for education systems. **Available directly, or as a subcontractor to firms that already hold the relationship.**

Twenty-five years in public education: 11 years in the elementary classroom in DeKalb County, literacy strategy across more than 20 schools, then five years in program evaluation at Fulton County Schools, finishing as Director of Research, Evaluation, and Accountability for a district of more than 100 schools. I bring disciplined structure to systems facing complex data and heavy accountability demands.

CORE OFFERINGS

Learning-Centered Evaluation & Accountability Design

Evaluation and accountability systems that balance rigor with usability and are designed so the required reporting also answers the questions leaders actually have.

Qualitative Analysis & Research-Based Recommendations

Interviews, focus groups, and open-ended surveys designed, conducted, and analyzed, with findings presented to leaders and recommendations grounded in cited research.

Instructional Materials Review & Adoption Fidelity

Reviewing high-quality instructional materials against clear criteria, then studying how adopted materials are used in classrooms and whether the system can sustain them.

Applied Research Studies

Studies designed around a decision leaders face, from the research question to findings they can act on. Impact, cost, and descriptive studies, evidence reviews, and rapid studies for tight timelines, run directly, in partnership with the people doing the work, or as part of a larger firm engagement.

Continuous Improvement Design & Coaching

Improvement cycles aimed at the problems that move outcomes, with practical measures that show whether a change is working while there is still time to adjust. Coaching teams through their first cycles until they can run the next one on their own.

Professional Learning & PLC Design

Professional learning built for the adults in the room, on whatever a system needs its staff to know. PLC design and troubleshooting for teams that meet regularly and want the meetings to change instruction.

SELECTED RESULTS

Rebuilt a district evaluation portfolio serving 100+ schools. Replaced an ad hoc selection process with a criteria-driven method that redirected review toward the district's highest-cost, least-examined programs, leading a 15-person team.

First in the district to apply program evaluation methods to an operational department. Merged program evaluation and management consulting to extend the unit's reach beyond academic programs, a first for the district and for its longtime evaluation partner.

Built early warning indicators for dropout prevention. Developed predictive analytics from longitudinal student data as a Strategic Data Project Fellow at Harvard's Center for Education Policy Research.

Moved practice and outcomes on a districtwide literacy initiative. More than 90% of principals reported stronger use of evidence-based literacy practices, and more than 65% of students improved in phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

Led literacy strategy across 20+ schools. Designed and facilitated multi-school professional learning cohorts strengthening reading outcomes from kindergarten through high school.

METHOD: PURPOSE-DRIVEN SENSEMAKING

- 01 What matters most to know right now?
- 02 What do we need to keep learning over time?
- 03 Which data are requirement-driven rather than value-driven?

CREDENTIALS

M.Ed. and B.A. in Elementary Education, University of Florida

Strategic Data Project Fellow, Harvard University Center for Education Policy Research, 2022 to 2024

Twenty-five years in public K-12: classroom teacher, program specialist, district director
Panelist before national education funders

PRIOR PARTNERS & AFFILIATIONS

Fulton County Schools · Harvard University, Center for Education Policy Research · Georgia Policy Labs, Georgia State University · Gibson Consulting Group · DeKalb County Schools

WHAT A PARTNER RECEIVES

Evaluation plans and logic models · interview protocols, survey instruments, and focus group synthesis · program evaluation reports · applied research studies and evidence reviews · scoring rubrics and criteria frameworks · early warning indicators and predictive models · board-ready briefs and executive summaries · data literacy PD and PLC sequences · research-practice partnership design · practical measures and cycle plans

"Amanda was the first to request a research-based evaluation of an operational department ... the first I had ever witnessed from a program evaluation unit."

Greg Gibson, President, Gibson Consulting Group

Sitting on a program you cannot tell is working, or a decision you have to defend with imperfect data? I would love to hear about it.

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