

Talking Points for Different Audiences About Potential of RPPs

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The potential value of research-practice partnerships varies by stakeholder group. Understanding these groups' concerns is key to persuading them to invest in a partnership approach to research and development. The talking points below are statements grounded in research on the dynamics and outcomes successful partnerships, though they are certainly not true of all partnerships. You can use them as guides to craft a "pitch" to a local policymaker, a state policymaker, or a prospective partner that includes additional information about the specifics of the investment you want someone to make in a partnership.

Local and State Policymakers

- The involvement of external researchers in an improvement effort can give us a neutral, independent voice on its impacts.
- In a partnership, we can answer research questions we care about.
- Researchers are accountable to help us focus on our problems.
- We can trust researchers working in close partnership with us to be sensitive to political issues relevant to the district.
- Research partners can inform design of complex policy initiatives with multiple moving parts.
- Research partners can help us identify evidence-based programs to implement that are a good fit to our district or state's needs.
- Research partners help guide decisions about where to direct resources and funding for an existing problem but no existing intervention exists.
- Research partners can conduct research during the development of a policy or initiative to help improve it.
- Research partners can inform the design of policies and RFPs for grant programs in ways that reflect research evidence for a given area.
- Access to researchers can strengthen messages to support particular initiatives.
- Research partners can share evidence with us from other states about how to bring things to scale at the level of a state.

Education Leader (potential partner)

- A research partner can help us to identify evidence-based programs to implement in a range of areas.
- A research partner brings resources (e.g., staffing, professional development design and delivery, and other resources) to implement initiatives we already have going on.
- Research partners can help us to develop and test effective interventions that address problems of practice.

- Research partners can be thought partners on issues of concern to the district.
- Research partners can help broker access to others in the research world.

A Principal Investigator (potential research partner)

- Education leaders are in a position to make an impact on practice that is informed by research.
- Education leaders can bring research alive, so that it does not just sit in a journal that few people read.
- The direct involvement of education leaders in research can make for more compelling grant proposals.
- The questions to ask in research will be more relevant and useful to educators you want to reach.