Education in Minnesota has a serious LEARNING TO IMPROVE problem.\textsuperscript{1} The Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI) interviewed or surveyed more than 800 educators in 2015. The results demonstrate a clear need for action.\textsuperscript{2} Educators in Minnesota believe in the use of data and accountability standards, but they lack the knowledge and resources to use data and evidence to improve their practices. Minnesota has a learning to improve problem.

Educators believe in the use of data. The want to use data to tailor instruction (73%), monitor achievement (77%), evaluate educational programs (70%), and provide accountability (69%).

Educators need technical assistance to use data. They need support to analyze (61%), report (61%), and interpret/use data (61%). They need professional development (69%).

Educational leaders lack capacity to learn from data. They lack resources to train staff (70%), evaluate programs (51%), and analyze (54%), report (51%), or interpret data (70%).

Help Minnesota schools GET BETTER AT GETTING BETTER.\textsuperscript{1}

CAREI can enhance the capacity for educators to learn from data, learn from each other, and learn from evidence. CAREI is a research and service center at the University of Minnesota with more than 25 years of experience and 44 partnered educational agencies (school districts) and professional organizations. CAREI is a highly valuable and unique resource in Minnesota. It can help educational agencies throughout the state learn to improve. This includes outreach to rural and other communities that are located outside of the Twin Cities (travel, virtual conferencing).

At CAREI, we recognize that many of the most persistent problems in education do not have known solutions. These solutions must be discovered/learned, which begins with six foundational principles.

1. Use disciplined inquiry to drive disciplined improvement.
2. Be problem-specific and user centered.
3. Explore the systems and solutions that produce the outcomes.
4. Do not try one solution. Try many. Let them compete.
5. Measure better and use the right data to learn.
6. Focus on variations across communities and populations.

CAREI will accelerate learning through coordination and participation in Networked Improvement Communities (NICs). NICs will facilitate high quality collaboration to explore solutions and communicate shared outcomes. State and local educational agencies can participate in one or more NICs. CAREI will facilitate processes so that educationally agencies learn from their local efforts, their data, and that of other agencies. Sustained and supported NICs provide the training and resources for educators to discover solutions and learn to improve.

In addition, CAREI will continue with other services to state, local and professional agencies.


\textsuperscript{2} Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (2016). Minnesota Needs Assessment: Research, Evaluation, Assessment, and Data Use in Schools. Minneapolis, MN: CAREI.