

Connecting Research to Educational Improvement

Dr. Carol Campbell, Chief Research Officer with the Ontario Ministry of Education Her Keynote Address at the Spring Research Symposium, *Connecting Research to Educational Improvement: Being Evidence-Informed in Practice* (March 2007), was sponsored by the Barrie Region MISA Professional Network Centre.

In this address, Dr. Carol Campbell focuses on the role of research in supporting educational improvement. This improvement requires attention to “what” research is relevant to current needs and “how” to effectively connect it to improved practice. In particular, effective responses involve developing successful strategies for being evidence-informed in practice and drawing upon research, data, and other sources of information.

Suggested Audience:

- Directors
- Superintendents with elementary and/or secondary responsibilities
- Administrators (elementary and secondary)
- Teachers
- Board researchers and analysts

Segments:

1. Introduction
2. The Ontario Education Research Strategy: Collaboration, Communication, Content, and Capacity
3. Research-Engaged Schools
4. Bringing Together Research, Data, and Information
5. Summary

Segment 1: Introduction

(Length: 4 minutes)

Synopsis:

Carol Campbell, Chief Research Officer for the Ontario Ministry of Education, outlines her keynote presentation.

Segment 2: The Ontario Education Research Strategy: Collaboration, Communication, Content, and Capacity

(Length: 11 minutes)

Synopsis:

Dr. Campbell outlines the Ontario Education Research Strategy.

Look for the following:

- Collaboration and building partnerships
- Communication through research dissemination activities; e.g., websites and webcasts
- Content focusing on student achievement, increased equity, and public confidence
- Capacity building in research

After viewing Segment 2:

- Go to one of the following suggested websites to access current educational research findings:
www.curriculum.org
www.edu.gov.on.ca
www.inspirelearning.org
- How does your organization collaborate, communicate, and build capacity in research?

Segment 3: Research-Engaged Schools

(Length: 9 minutes)

Synopsis:

Dr. Campbell describes the “how” of research.

Look for the following:

- The eight key characteristics of research-engaged schools
- The role of the school district or board in supporting research-engaged schools

After viewing Segment 3:

- Is your school research-engaged? What steps can you take to improve on one or more of the key characteristics?
- School districts and boards can support research-engaged schools. Describe how your board is assisting schools with research and suggest how this role could be expanded in the future.

Segment 4: Bringing Together Research, Data and Information

(Length: 17 minutes)

Dr. Campbell connects research to improvement, practice, program, and policy.

Look for the following:

- Research cautions
- Evidence-informed decision making
- Research: Acquire, assess, adapt and apply
- Our shared roles

After viewing Segment 4:

- What are the barriers or obstacles that hinder strong connections?

Segment 5: Summary

(Length: 5 minutes)

Dr. Campbell comments on the Ontario Education Research Panel (OERP), highlights potential research topics for the Ontario Research Strategy, and challenges the audience to continue to work together to connect research to educational improvement.