



# **Using Research in the Policy-making Process**

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# What kind of research matters in the policy process

- First, it must be relevant in the sense of being about a policy-making matter of current interest
- Second, it must be of high quality and well regarded in the research community
- Third, it must be relatively easy to understand to the layperson
- Fourth, it must be clearly and respectfully communicated to policy-makers and others

# What has the MCHP research told us

- Students living in our low-income communities as a group are not as successful as other students
- Quantified what we generally or intuitively knew in a starkly unequivocal way
- Made it glaringly obvious that more should be done to try to address this situation

# **What has been the impact of MCHP research on policy and budget decisions**

- Helped to create resolve in the department and support among partners
- Department has identified education in low-income communities to be a priority
- This has had resource implications in terms of resource allocations and hiring

# Conclusions

- Research matters and can have an impact on policy formulation
- Need to embrace credible research even if, or maybe especially if, it is less than flattering
- Connecting research and policy depends on good communication and mutual respect



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**Merci**

**Thank You**