

Exploring the Field – Effectiveness and Improvement Research

The Educational Effectiveness and Improvement (EEI) 'Tradition' is the most established, international and co-ordinated group researching topics relating to the effectiveness and improvement of schools. It can be thought of as being comprised of two overlapping areas: educational effectiveness research (EER) and school improvement research. The former is a combination of teacher effectiveness and school effectiveness research (Chapman et al., 2016).

There are several anchor points for the EEI community. Most centrally are 1) the journal: *School Effectiveness and School Improvement* (SESI), 2) the handbook: *International Handbook of Educational Effectiveness and Improvement* (Chapman et al., 2016); and 3) the conference: *International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement* (ICSEI). Beyond these lie a wider range of journals, handbooks and compilations, and communities within general educational research associations. Other related journals include (but are not limited to):

- *Effective Education*
- *Improving Schools*
- *School Leadership and Management*

There are 'special interest groups' or strands linked to most major conferences and educational research associations (e.g., BERA, EARLI, EERA, ECER, AERA and more). Other handbooks include the predecessors of the 2016 handbook, *The International Handbook of School Effectiveness Research* (1999); *The International Handbook of School Effectiveness and Improvement* (2007); *The International Handbook of Educational Change* (2005); *The Second International Handbook of Educational Change* (2010); *The International Handbook of Teacher and School Development* (2017); and the recent *International Perspectives in Educational Effectiveness Research* (2020).

Suggested Reading by Theme

General Reference

- Chapman, C., Armstrong, P., Harris, A., Muijs, D., Reynolds, D., & Sammons, P. (2012). *School effectiveness and school improvement research: Challenging the orthodoxy*. New York: Routledge.
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School Effectiveness and Improvement

- Antoniou, P., Kyriakides, L., & Charalambous, E. (2022). How and under which conditions can we best combine research on School Effectiveness with research on School Improvement? Establishing connections using the Dynamic Approach to School Improvement. *Education Sciences*, 12(8), 537. <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci12080537>
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- Sammons, P. (1996). Complexities in the judgement of school effectiveness. *Educational Research and Evaluation*, 2(2), 113-149.
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- Schildkamp, K. (2019). Data-based decision-making for school improvement: Research insights and gaps. *Educational research*, 61(3), 257-273.

- Thomas, S., Sammons, P., Mortimore, P., & Smees, R. (1997). Stability and consistency in secondary schools' effects on students' GCSE outcomes over three years. *School Effectiveness and School Improvement*, 8(2), 169-197.

Policy and System Improvement

- Ainscow, M., Chapman, C., & Hadfield, M. (2019). *Changing education systems: A research-based approach*. Routledge.
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- Harris, A., & Jones, M. (2018). Why context matters: A comparative perspective on education reform and policy implementation. *Educational Research for Policy and Practice*, 17, 195-207.

Teachers and Teacher Effectiveness

- Brophy, J. (1986). Teacher influences on student achievement. *American psychologist*, 41(10), 1069.
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Methodology

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Leadership

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