CALDER research uses longitudinal data from multiple states and districts to examine how policies and practices impact student outcomes over a number of years. The partnership between CALDER and state data providers allows CALDER researchers to mobilize quickly to study how current and recent events affect real-time educational and social outcomes.

CALDER actively engages policymakers from the state and district levels through the Policymakers Council – a group of leaders from across the country who inform CALDER’s research agenda by sharing ideas, practices and experiences. This purposeful connection strengthens alignment between education research and the questions most pressing to decisionmakers. Council members convene in-person and virtually on a regular basis.

CALDER research particularly focuses on K-postsecondary outcomes in relation to:

- Educator preparation and teacher labor markets
- Educational programs and policies such as career and technical education, English learner support, and special education
- Postsecondary pathways and connections to the labor market
- Educational accountability
- Academic mobility

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