Assessing the Impact of a CSforALL Research-Practice Partnership Using the PROSPER Framework: A Case Study of the Chicago Alliance for Equity in Computer Science (CAFÉCS)

Erin Henrick
Partner to Improve

Steven McGee
The Learning Partnership

Ronald I. Greenberg
Loyola University Chicago, Rgreen@luc.edu

Dale Reed
University of Illinois at Chicago

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Three co-design meetings with leadership team to develop the framework for understanding the areas of impact. This paper applies the PROSPER framework to the CAFÉCS case study by deductively coding 26 RPP-led publications and 10 grant awards. The results of this analysis suggest that the RPP was able to make significant impact in the areas of Programs, Research, Organizational Structure, and Policy, leading to Equitable Results for students. We present the PROSPER Framework as a practical framework that other education RPPs can use to assess their own impact on their partner districts. We discuss further questions and areas of interest as means to better understand the interconnected nature of these different areas of impact.

The CAFÉCS leadership team sought to document the impact of CAFÉCS on CS education opportunities programs, policies, and practices. In this case study we rely on the CAFÉCS organizational structure for understanding equitable results in CS education opportunities as a way of retrospectively analyzing over a decade’s worth of grants, research, and dissemination products within the CAFÉCS setting. We envision this framework being helpful in a variety of settings and stages within an RPP’s lifecycle and for a range of user and audiences. This PROSPER framework can be useful:

● For a new RPP that wants to strategize how they can best impact a school district.
● For an existing RPP’s continuous improvement efforts, to document progress in each of these areas.
● For documenting and sharing RPP impact for district leaders, school boards, and funders.
● For educational researchers seeking to examine RPP district impact.

We developed PROSPER as a practical framework for assessing the overall impacts of an education RPP on a partnering school district. While we used it as a way of retroactively analyzing over a decade’s worth of grants, research, and dissemination products within the CAFÉCS setting, we envision this framework being helpful in a variety of settings and stages within an RPP’s lifecycle and for a range of user and audiences. This PROSPER framework can be useful:

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