

CARRIE L. CONAWAY

Harvard Graduate School of Education
Gutman Library 465, 6 Appian Way • Cambridge, MA 02138
carrie_conaway@gse.harvard.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Harvard Graduate School of Education	2019–present
Senior Lecturer on Education	2019–present
Co-chair, Education Policy and Analysis EdM program	2021–present
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	2007–2019
Chief Strategy and Research Officer	2016–2019
Associate Commissioner of Planning, Research, and Delivery Systems	2012–2016
Director of Planning, Research, and Evaluation	2007–2012
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston	2001–2007
Deputy Director, New England Public Policy Center	2004–2007
Associate Editor, <i>Regional Review</i>	2001–2004

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Brown University and Results for America	2021–present
Director, EdResearch Writing Fellowship Program	
Brief editor, EdResearch for Recovery series	
Association for Education Finance and Policy	
President	2018–2019
Executive committee and board member	2017–2020
Co-chair, policymakers & practitioners community group	2021–2022
Program committee member	2015–2017
Board member	2011–2014

EDUCATION

Harvard University	
Master of arts in sociology	2001
University of Minnesota, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs	
Master of arts in public affairs	1998
Concentrations: policy analysis and labor policy	
Oberlin College	
Bachelor of arts with high honors in sociology	1994

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Wentworth, Laura, Paula Arce-Trigatti, Carrie Conaway, and Samantha Shewchuk. 2023. [*Brokering in Education Research-Practice Partnerships: A Guide for Education Professionals and Researchers*](#). Routledge.

Gordon, Nora and Carrie Conaway. 2020. [*Common-Sense Evidence: The Education Leader's Guide to Using Data and Research*](#). Harvard Education Press.

Publications for researchers

Conaway, Carrie, Elizabeth Tipton, and Alfredo Artiles. 2022. [The value of variation: Why we need to attend to heterogeneity in intervention research](#). Stanford Graduate School of Education Public Scholarship Collaborative Blog. (revise & resubmit at Teachers College Record)

Conaway, Carrie. 2021. [Funding Research that is Useful and Used](#). *Education Next* blog, August 11.

Conaway, Carrie and Dan Goldhaber. 2020. [Appropriate Standards of Evidence for Education Policy Decision-Making](#). *Education Finance and Policy* 15(2): 383-396.

Conaway, Carrie. 2020. [Maximizing Research Use in the World We Actually Live In: Relationships, Organizations, and Interpretation](#). *Education Finance and Policy* 15(1): 1-10.

Booker, Laura, Carrie Conaway, and Nate Schwartz. 2019. [Five Ways RPPs Can Fail and How to Avoid Them: Applying Conceptual Frameworks to Improve RPPs](#). New York: William T. Grant Foundation.

Conaway, Carrie. 2017. The Massachusetts Charter School Research Partnership. In Jenni W. Owen and Anita M. Larson, eds. [*Researcher-Policymaker Partnerships: Strategies for Launching and Sustaining Successful Collaborations*](#). Routledge.

Conaway, Carrie, Venessa Keesler, and Nathaniel Schwartz. 2015. [What Research Do State Education Agencies Really Need?](#) *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 37 (1S): 16S–28S.

Conaway, Carrie. 2013. [The Problem with Briefs, In Brief](#). *Education Finance and Policy* 8(3): 287–299.

Publications for educators, policymakers, and practitioners

Conaway, Carrie and Nora Gordon. 2024. [If You Love Evidence, Set It Free](#). *Education Next* blog, February 21.

Wentworth, Laura, Carrie Conaway, Samantha Shewchuk, and Paula Arce-Trigatti. 2021. [*Brokering in Education Research-Practice Partnerships: A Handbook*](#). National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships.

Gordon, Nora and Carrie Conaway. 2021. [Asking the right research questions](#). *Educational Leadership* 78(8):38–43, May.

- Conaway, Carrie. 2021. [Complementing a strategic plan with a learning agenda](#). *School Administrator* 78(4): 42–45, April.
- Conaway, Carrie. 2021. [Research and practice, meet the state education agency](#). *Phi Delta Kappan* 102(7).
- Conaway, Carrie. 2021. [Bookshelf: Research for policy’s sake](#). *Phi Delta Kappan* 102(7).
- Conaway, Carrie. 2020. [How to read a research paper: The R3I method](#). Rethinking Research for Schools blog, December 11.
- Gordon, Nora and Carrie Conaway. 2020. [To broaden evidence use beyond the federal law’s requirements, use common sense](#). *Education Next* blog, August 17.
- Gordon, Nora and Carrie Conaway. 2020. [How districts can learn from their COVID response: Stats 101 not required](#). *Phi Delta Kappan* blog, July 13.
- Conaway, Carrie. 2020. [During Coronavirus Crisis, How Can State Leaders Help Schools? Q&A with Rick Hess](#). Rick Hess Straight Up blog, *Education Week*. April 6.
- Polikoff, Morgan and Carrie Conaway. 2018. [Getting Beyond ‘Did It Work?’: Proposing a New Approach to Integrate Research and Policy](#). *Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard*.
- Conaway, Carrie. 2018. [Tier 4 Evidence: ESSA’s Hidden Gem](#). *Phi Delta Kappan*, 99(8): 80.
- Conaway, Carrie. 2018. [Why Teacher Equity Gaps Matter for Massachusetts, and How Research Helps](#). Urban Education Reform: Bridging Research and Practice blog, *Education Week*, January 25.
- Conaway, Carrie and Russell Johnston. 2017. [Collaborating Within State Agencies to Ensure the Effective Use of Evidence](#). American Youth Policy Forum blog, February 7.
- Conaway, Carrie. 2015. [Better Policy Through Research: Conducting High Impact Research in State Education Agencies](#). *Building State Capacity and Productivity Center, Center for Reinventing Public Education*. SEA of the Future series, vol. 5.
- Conaway, Carrie. 2009. [College readiness: Massachusetts compiles the data](#). *Communities and Banking*, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, spring: 25–27.

PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Keynotes and featured presentations

The Future is Now: Advancing and Sustaining an Equity-Oriented Science Symposium.
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Mathematics. Invited panelist,
Session 3: Heterogeneity and Implementation.

September 2022

Asking and Answering Questions With Data. Keynote address, ClassLink Learning Analytics Summit.	October 2021
Practical Significance and Meaningful Effects: Interpreting Null Effects, Confidence Intervals, Effect Sizes and Related Issues that Matter for Policy and Practice. Keynote panelist, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness. (<i>event cancelled</i>)	March 2020
Maximizing Research Use in the World We Actually Live In. Presidential address, Association for Education Finance and Policy.	March 2019
Other presentations and panels	
Brokering as a strategy for policy impact. Results for America State Education Network convening.	May 2023
Asking questions to improve systems. Proving Ground Network meeting.	May 2023
Learning and working together: Effective strategies for student team projects. Harvard Initiative for Learning and Teaching conference (panelist).	September 2022
Data and resources to track K-12 efforts to catch kids up. Education Writers Association National Seminar (panelist).	July 2022
Evidence 101: Increasing practitioner skills with evidence use. Association for Education Finance and Policy.	March 2022
Five ways research partnerships can fail. Texas Tech University, ExpandEd seminar.	October 2021
RPP Brokers Handbook: Developing guidance for a key role. National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships annual forum.	July 2021
Solve the right problem. Workshop, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Executive Institute.	July 2021
Data linkages in Massachusetts: Lessons for NCEs. Presentation to National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine panel on a vision and roadmap for education statistics.	July 2021
Research that is useful and used. Presentation to National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine panel on the future of education research at IES.	June 2021
Build a learning agenda. Workshop, Strategic Data Project annual convening.	May 2021
Common-Sense Evidence. Workshop, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Networked Improvement Science group.	March 2021

Transforming research in higher education for impact and equity. Policy talk, Association for Education Finance and Policy.	March 2021
How to learn from your own data under COVID-19. Presentation for Council of Chief State School Officers.	January 2021
‘In Conversation With’ seminar series, Trinity College Dublin, School of Education.	December 2020
Supporting School District Capacity to Participate in Research Across the Policy Lifecycle. Super-session, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.	November 2020
Gutman Library book talk, <i>Common-Sense Evidence: The Education Leader’s Guide to Using Data and Research</i> .	September 2020
A Controversial Test Item in Massachusetts: Policy and Research Responses. Policy talk, Association for Education Finance and Policy.	March 2020
Research Use in Education: Challenges and Opportunities. Presentations to the Harvard University K-12 Task Force and the Harvard Graduate School of Education Visiting Committee.	December 2019– March 2020
Welcome Remarks, 2019 MIT School Access and Quality Summit.	November 2019
Five Ways Research Projects Can Fail. Strategic Data Fellows conference, Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard University.	October 2019
Seeking the Holy Grail: Challenges with RCTs. National Network of Education Research–Practice Partnerships Annual Forum.	July 2019
Chronic absenteeism in Massachusetts. Symposium on Absenteeism and Attendance, The Boston Foundation.	August 2018
A smaller class is a better class...right? Center for Education Policy Research, Strategic Data Project convening.	May 2018
Teacher Preparation and Licensure Research in Massachusetts. Seminars presented at University of Washington, University of Virginia, Boston University, Education Northwest, and Federal Reserve Bank of New York.	2017–2018
Making Policy Research Policy-Relevant, Even in a Post-Truth Era. Panel discussion, Association for Education Finance and Policy.	March 2017
Evidence-based Practice and the Every Student Succeeds Act. Panel discussion, Association for Education Finance and Policy.	March 2017

Assessing the Assessments: Measuring the Quality of New College- and Career-Ready Assessments. National Council on Measurement in Education.	April 2016
MCAS, PARCC, or Door #3? The Role of Research in the Massachusetts Assessment Decision. Panel discussion, Association for Education Finance and Policy.	March 2016
Building Evidence from Implementation. Funders Conference on Evidence-Based Grant Making in Youth Policy.	December 2015
Education Policy Research Partnerships: Models from Massachusetts. Panel discussion, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.	April 2015
Choices About Student Data: Systems, Policies, and the Future of Data-Driven Decision Making. Invited panelist, Rennie Center Policy Breakfast.	April 2015
What research do state education agencies really need? Invited presentation, National Science Foundation Network on Leveraging Administrative Data to Inform Education Research and Practice.	October 2014
Research in policy making: A practitioner perspective. Invited presentation, American Youth Policy Forum.	March 2013
Implementation of the Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiative from a State Policy Perspective. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.	November 2012
Research in policy making: The view from the other side. Keynote presentations, Regional Educational Laboratory Program Opening Conference and REL: Northeast and Islands board meeting.	January 2012
Facilitating Policy-Relevant Research in Massachusetts. Invited panel presentation at the University of Michigan, Center on Local, State, and Urban Policy.	December 2009

FUNDING

Fund in honor of Commissioner Mitchell D. Chester, to support development of a professional education course on evidence. \$11,600	2021
Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Co-principal investigator, The Teacher Pipeline in Massachusetts: Connecting Pre-Service Performance Measures to In-Service Teacher Outcomes . \$399,344	2017-2019
Spencer Foundation Research-Practice Partnership Grant. Co-principal investigator, Massachusetts Partnership for Educator Effectiveness Research. \$399,258	2016-2019

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Measures of Learning and Improvement grant to support a Massachusetts statewide educator survey. \$300,000 2015–2017

Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Co–principal investigator, “Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time: Implementation and Outcomes.” \$2.9 million 2008–2013

TEACHING

Harvard Graduate School of Education

EVI101	Evidence	Fall 2020, August 2021, 2022, 2023
S057	Making Data Count (was: Using Data in Organizations)	Spring 2021, 2022, 2023
A134	Toward Organizations That Learn: Integrating Research and Practice in Education Systems	Spring 2020
S054	Making Data Count: Asking and Answering Questions with Data	Spring 2020

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

EdResearch Writers Fellowship program. Day-long kickoff and ongoing virtual workshops for PhD researchers on how to write effectively for policy and practice audiences. Spring 2023

Harvard Graduate School of Education: Professional Education. Using Evidence in Practice. April 2022

Getting to Policy Impact. Half-day workshop on strategies for strong policy presentations for the Wheelock Education Policy Center at Boston University. December 2022

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Education Counsel, Learning Systems Leadership Network member. 2020–present

Advisory board member, Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard Graduate School of Education 2017–2019

Member, Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER) Policymakers Council 2015–present

Member, National Science Foundation Network on Leveraging Administrative Data to Inform Education Research and Practice 2013–2016

Member, Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands Governing Board 2011–2017

Member, Technical Working Group on expanded learning time, Mathematica Inc.	2012
Research Advisory Committee, The Education Resources Institute	2008
Research Advisory Committee, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy	2007

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Outstanding Service Award, Association for Education Finance and Policy	2023
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Workforce Mentoring Award	2014