

Amy Coppinger

Supervisor of Early Childhood

Berkeley Township School District

Our district chose to participate in the NIEER study for a variety of reasons. Although we use structured observation tools in our preschool classrooms, this study goes beyond those tools and puts together a variety of components that lead to quality programs. We know there is correlation in classroom quality and student learning, however, knowing how a teacher's stress/mental health indicator is affecting student learning is of great value to us as school leaders. Our district has focused on ensuring our students get sufficient gross motor time every day and this study tracks how that activity relates to their health, success and learning in the classroom. A crucial piece of this research is how our practices as school leaders impact the overall program success. Having documented research on how our district practices can affect early childhood success is invaluable. Overall, our district hopes the research gives us insight how to maintain and improve quality in our early childhood programs in our district.