Focusing on the most pressing challenges facing the region, the Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC) is a research-practice partnership between Rice University and 11 Houston-area school districts. HERC research is developed directly alongside district leaders with findings shared with decision makers – culminating in long-term, equity-minded solutions, opportunities and growth for Houston and beyond.

HERC’s research focuses on topics important for school leaders and communities, and for a vibrant future workforce:

- Early-education initiatives, including full-day Pre-Kindergarten
- Student mobility between school districts
- English-language learning
- Tracking students post-graduation
- College advising
- Social-emotional skills
- Arts education

HERC PARTNER DISTRICTS

714,065

Total Enrollment in HERC Partner Districts
HERC informs change.

EMPOWERED DECISION-MAKING
Recent HERC research shows Pre-Kindergarten doubles the likelihood of school readiness by Kindergarten.
- HERC staff testified before multiple Texas Legislature committees.
- In May 2019, the Legislature approved Texas House Bill 3, funding full-day Pre-K across the state.
- Houston school leaders are working to expand access to Pre-K for more families.

COLLABORATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE
HERC is the founding partner of the National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships (NNERPP) – more than 30 of these unique teams develop, support, and connect relationships between education agencies and research institutions to fuel research, policy, and practice.

SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY
After Hurricane Harvey, HERC produced nearly 300 maps identifying student homes affected by flood damage. These maps helped school leaders provide outreach and support to families in the wake of the disaster.

Invest in a strong future through transformative research informing today’s school leaders. Learn more about HERC at herc.rice.edu and support our work, our partnerships and our people at giving.rice.edu.

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