

Title: Senior Research Scientist - Survey Methodology

Organization Name: SRI Education

Position Information: Full Time

Duty Location: Menlo Park, CA; Arlington, VA

Job Summary

SRI Education conducts rigorous research and evaluation to inform educational policy and practice. Our work spans the learning and development continuum, including early childhood, K-12, postsecondary education and training, and workforce settings (PK20W). We are seeking a Senior Research Scientist with strong training and expertise in survey methods and psychometrics. We seek researchers dedicated to leveraging their technical skills to strengthen the field of education research and substantively impact teaching and learning.

Duties

The Senior Research Scientist will:

- Lead project and proposal efforts in Education Division's focal areas of college and career readiness and workforce development, integrated academic and career-technical education, teacher development and teaching quality, digital learning, STEM, social-emotional learning, and early childhood.
- Lead and provide oversight for project staff in the development of measures (e.g., social emotional learning, career readiness skills) that inform PK20W policy and program decisions.
- Provide leadership for large-scale survey implementation, including support for sampling.
- Oversee and conduct psychometric analyses to examine instrument and item validity and reliability.
- Interpret results of psychometric analyses and clearly communicate results and their implications to diverse audiences, including technical and non-technical stakeholders via oral and written briefs that include the use of easy-to-understand graphics and visuals.
- Lead and contribute to proposals for diverse clients that enhance SRI's research and technical assistance programs.
- Write reports, policy papers, and articles for clients, policymakers, and practitioners, and present study findings to audiences with a range of technical sophistication.
- Provide intellectual leadership in collaboration with SRI's research, evaluation, assessment, and policy experts to enhance measurement and survey research practices across the Education Division.
- Provide guidance and support for internal research teams and clients on survey sampling, instrument design, analysis, weighting, and methods for handling missing data.
- Develop internal guidelines and lead workshops on best practices in instrument design and analysis.
- Mentor junior researchers on measurement, survey design, and sampling.
- Support SRI's national reputation for rigorous research by publishing peer-

- reviewed research and participating in national conferences.
- Grow professionally and develop new skills through ongoing collegial support and professional development opportunities, and remain current on measurement and survey research literature.

Qualification Requirements

- Doctorate in education, survey methodology, measurement, psychometrics, educational psychology, sociology, statistics, or closely related field with at least 5 years of experience is preferred, or master's degree with at least 10 years related experience demonstrating increasing levels of responsibility.
- Track record of obtaining program funds from sources such as federal agencies, states, philanthropies, corporations, or quasi-governmental agencies.
- Experience strengthening measures used in applied statistical analysis and social science research methods, including experimental and quasi-experimental designs.
- Substantial experience developing instruments independently and in teams, including conducting cognitive interviews and pilot testing, with attention to design aspects such as question readability, order, social desirability bias, and questionnaire length.
- Measurement expertise, such as classical test theory, factor analysis, and Item Response Theory, and application of Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing.
- Knowledge of and experience using survey sampling methods, including stratified sampling, cluster sampling, weighting, and methods for handling missing data.
- Interest in improving survey research capacity through the use of new technologies and innovations.
- Proficiency in statistical and psychometric software packages.
- Understanding of key PK20W issues including early learning and school readiness, K12 schools, teacher quality, postsecondary education and training, and workforce participation and success.
- Passion to improve education for all students.
- Must be a collaborative team player and an effective communicator with exceptional written and oral communication skills.
- Previous work in the PK20W system is critical, such as teaching, administration, research, or evaluation.