

G&A Research and Evaluation Projects

SAIT External Evaluators & Site and District Program Improvement Restructuring

Services: G&A conducted SAIT evaluations and restructuring services in over 20 sites in five school districts.

Evaluation of Initiatives, Grants and Programs: Comprehensive School Reform, Small Learning Communities, National Science Foundations, California Math Science Partnerships, 21st Century Community Learning Centers and others.

Research, Develop & Operate Effective After School, Summer School and other Intervention Programs: G&A used a variety of approaches from highly structured reading interventions designed to build deeper comprehension to more flexible models designed to tap into student interests, build motivation, and provide challenging opportunities to apply their learning to problems relevant to students.

Evaluation of Bay Area Coalition of Equitable Schools' Coaching Program: In April of 2002, G&A began an evaluation of the Bay Area Coalition of Equitable Schools' (BayCES) coaching program. G&A developed five case study reports, an extensive literature review addressing the qualities of the coaching program within the context of research-based effective practices, surveyed BayCES network schools, and conducted extensive interviews and classroom observations. G&A has been asked to make recommendations for policies based on the initial findings of this evaluation.

Evaluation of Algebra and Secondary Professional Development Programs: In April of 2001, G&A conducted an extensive study of Oakland Unified School District's Algebra program, which involved over a hundred hours of classroom observation and focus groups, surveys of all ninth grade students, and studies of best practices in math instruction in secondary schools. The results of this study are used to inform district policy and as the basis of the 4th year of evaluation of their National Science Foundation Grant. Based on the quality of this evaluation, G&A was asked to perform an extensive evaluation of the districts implementation of *Standards-in-Practice* Professional Development at all their secondary schools. This evaluation includes observations of meetings, training sessions, surveys, focus groups, and interviews with all stakeholders.

Marin Tobacco Education Program Research and Evaluation: The county of Marin's Health and Human Services Department contracted with G&A to conduct a longitudinal evaluation of their efforts for a "smoke-free" Marin, which are funded by Master Settlement Agreement dollars for five years at \$5 million total. The county commissioned G&A to provide direction and insight into the replication of successful interventions in Marin County and to provide feedback on the progress and impact of these interventions on an annual basis and mid-year to allow for mid-course corrections.

San Mateo Linguistic Access to Healthcare: G&A conducted a county-wide study of the policies and practices related to linguistic access to San Mateo County's system of healthcare services for the Health Department in 2005 and 2006. G&A commenced this study with extensive best practice research on model policies and practices and summarized this in a report. Research activities also included a demographic review, a policy review, a program manager survey, a staff survey, interviews with community leaders, site observations and client focus groups conducted in four languages. Over 50 health care programs and organizations, as well as the major limited English proficient groups in San Mateo County participated in the study. G&A worked with numerous community-based organizations and community leaders to create forums for community members to provide authentic input on the level of linguistic access in San Mateo County. The final report synthesized multiple sources of quantitative and qualitative data and outlined key findings and practical recommendations for the County to improve linguistic access. The Health Department is currently implementing the recommendations that resulted from this study.

Immigrant Health Research and Evaluation Projects: Since 2002 the International Institute of San Francisco has regularly engaged G&A to assess the effectiveness of their health promotion work with various immigrant groups.

A Safe Place Domestic Violence Program Research and Evaluation: A Safe Place (ASP) engaged G&A from 2001-2003 to assess the quality of their support services to battered women and their children living in the Northern California East Bay Region.

Oakland Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Research & Evaluation: From 1999 to 2005, G&A evaluated Oakland's Community Development Block Grant Program (housing, economic development, public services). In addition to evaluating between 40 to 80 CDBG-funded programs annually, G&A also conducted applied research into how other jurisdictions manage their CDBG process. As a result of this applied research, the city has completely reformed its grant giving policies. Furthermore, as evaluation results pointed to poor performance in the City's Commercial Lending Program, the city contracted with G&A to conduct extensive research into how other jurisdictions achieved better results.

City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation Research and Evaluation: The Office of Oakland's Parks and Recreation (OPR) contracted with G&A from 2001-2003 to examine the quality of services provided at the 24 recreation centers and 7 pools throughout Oakland.

City of Oakland, Evaluation of Housing Services for Renters at Risk: The Community and Economic Development Agency requested that G&A perform a case study of their housing services for renters at risk of homelessness in 2002-2003.