

Name

Date

Statistical Analysis of Education Indicators

Forum on Child and Family Statistics: Education Indicators

From: <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren06/index.asp>

The data on this site shows different factors that affect education. A wide range of ages is covered in the data. Statistics are provided for pre-school, elementary school, high school and college students. This data can be used by teachers and school systems to decide which subjects to teach and how much time should be spent on each subject. The information from the data helps these decision makers understand where students are succeeding and where they are failing.

To show how the data helps, here is an example. The data provided shows that average reading score of 4th graders increased from 2003 to 2005, but the average reading scores of 8th graders declined in the same period. This information is a starting point for the next action of the decision makers. They need to think about the reasons why the reading scores would have declined. It may be that the 8th graders are not as interested in learning about reading as the 4th graders. There may be other reasons, such as the methods used to teach reading or the number of student per teacher, so all possible reasons need to be considered.

After the decision makers consider all the reasons, then they need to think about the different actions they can take to close the achievement gap. They need to decide on the changes that will help the 8th graders read better. My recommendation is to add more technology to the 8th grade reading curriculum. I think that technology makes every subject more interesting, so I am confident that adding technology would make 8th grade reading more appealing. If they like the subject more, the 8th graders will do better in reading.