

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Manager

2019 – 2025

WestEd, Los Alamitos, CA

- Leading the development of educator preparation program affordability and sustainability resources for aspiring teachers and program providers in California, and leading WestEd's funding coaching for the Educator Registered Apprenticeship industry intermediary project.
- Conducting qualitative research for universities, as well as state and local education agencies through projects and reports on policy, resource allocation/fiscal systems, equity and accountability.
- Designing and leading research studies to support state and district leaders in understanding how community members and educators experience policy reform, engaging qualitative methods such as statewide focus groups, interviews, ethnographic observation and field notes, and surveys.
- Utilizing advanced qualitative analysis techniques through MAXQDA as well as NVivo software, centralizing content analyses across over 100+ unique documents to be centralized with a single coding scheme and dictionary. Exporting data and organizing coding tables to document and organize findings through Microsoft Excel. Employing Tailwind, Otter AI, and other intelligence tools as needed to maximize efficiency in the analysis process.
- Providing technical assistance and support to school leaders regarding resource management, compliance and implicit bias in leadership through 6-week accelerated courses, 1-to-1 coaching, webinars, and direct on-site consultation.
- Supporting Business development for the agency, securing over \$250,000 in research grant funds over the course of the last two years.

Lead Teaching Assistant/Graduate Student Researcher

2023 – Present

University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA

Appointed as Lead Teaching Assistant for the UCSD Education Studies Department. Providing mentorship and training to junior TAs and incoming graduate students regarding research methods as well as teaching practices. Instructing master's level courses for aspiring school leaders focused on the content areas of school finance and educational equity. Designing syllabi and all course content for a cohort of 30 – 50 students each year.

Associate Policy Analyst, Independent Analysis Unit

2017 – 2018

Los Angeles Unified School District, CA

Principal analyst and writer for several major projects, including reports to the LAUSD Board of Education modeling distribution formulas of Title I grant funds to LAUSD schools. Managed multiple projects and timelines, including designing and implementing a project management template for the department. Extracted and consolidated data from multiple online dashboards into STATA for analysis.

Worked as part of a 9-member policy review team, in support of a longitudinal study of collective bargaining and union behavior within California’s K-12 Education system. Analyzed school district policy documents, including collective bargaining agreements, to assess data trends and discrepancies for over 100 districts.

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 – 2026 (In progress) Ph.D., Education Policy, UC San Diego, San Diego, CA
 - 2025 AERA Division L Graduate Student Council Member
 - 2022 UCSD EDS Diversity Fellowship
 - 2021 Certificate in Education Finance, Georgetown University, Washington, DC
 - 2019 Education Pioneers Impact Fellow, 2019 Cohort
 - 2017 MA, Public Administration, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
 - 2013 BA, Social Psychology, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA
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PUBLICATIONS

Pollock, M., Yoshikawa, H., Diaz, J., Issa, A, Homan, E., Matschiner, A., Richburg, A., Cox, B. (2025). The Limitation Effect: Experiences of State Policy-Driven Education Restriction in Florida’s Public Schools.

Fuller, B., Diaz, J., Hoang, M.K. (2024). Vietnam Preschools in Global Context: Policy Innovations and Local Implementation. Prepared for the Vietnam Ministry of Education in Partnership with The World Bank Group.

Valdez, A., Hashmi, S., Diaz, J. (2023). Advancing and Sustaining Student and Staff Well-being Initiatives: A Resource Guide for States. Council of Chief State School Officers.

California Department of Education. (2023). Potential Fiscal Barriers to Prekindergarten Through Third Grade Inclusion for Students with Disabilities. California Educators Together.

Romer, N., Valdez, A., Alcalá, L., Diaz, J., Gurrola, E., McClellan, P., McCullough, S. (2022) Improving Coordination and Access to Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Services in California: A Preliminary Landscape Analysis. WestEd.

Diaz, J., Harder, A., Jacobson, A., Knotts, M., Valdez, A., & Willis, J. (2021). Utah State Board of Education funding policy focus groups: Findings and recommendations. WestEd.

Diaz, J., & Ennis, J. (2021). North Carolina Smart Start: Needs Formula Review. San Francisco, CA: WestEd.

Krausen, K., Diaz, J., Willis, J., & Lias, C. (2021). Following Through: 5 Strategies for Getting Federal Relief Aid to Students Who Need It Most. Federal Relief Aid Series. Brief 4. WestEd.

California Health and Human Services. (2020). Master Plan For Early Learning and Care. California For All Kids.

PRESENTATIONS

Diaz, J. (04/2024). "One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: Engagement with Communities Under The American Rescue Plan Act". Presented at the 2024 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Pollock, M., Matschiner, A., Kennedy, B., Homan, E., Issa, A., Ko-Wong, L., Musillo, C., Diaz, J., Chacon, M., Levine, R., Fine, S., Howard, J. (04/2024) Teaching, Learning, and Leading Amidst the Conflict Campaign, 2020-2024: Voices from Educators and Youth. Presented at the 2024 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Diaz, J. (04/2023). "How school districts interpret and implement federal requirements for meaningful consultation in fiscal decision-making during the COVID – 19 Pandemic". Presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.