

DATA LAB PROJECT OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Data Lab, the research and evaluation site for the JMU College of Education Laboratory School for Innovation & Career Exploration. The Lab School, a partnership between James Madison University (JMU), Rockingham County Public Schools (RCPS), and Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC), is designed to enhance the career and college readiness of participating high school students. Collaboration between RCPS teachers, college faculty, and industry experts provide Lab School students with opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary, project-based learning, applied, real-world problem-solving, and relevant career exploration.

Research and evaluation are central to Lab School model, which serve as “laboratories” for innovative teaching and learning, as well as dissemination of best practice research. Robust data collection and a commitment to continuous improvement help the Lab School to ensure fidelity in program implementation and to assess program effectiveness.

The Lab School evaluation plan focuses on tracking key outcomes related to student academic progress, personal growth, and future career and college readiness. This comprehensive framework supports the academic, social, and emotional outcomes necessary for long-term student success. Additionally, teacher-related measures ensure instructional quality, professional growth, and job satisfaction. Feedback from students, teachers, and other stakeholders provides important information about Lab School programming.

The Lab School has partnered with JMU’s Madison Center for Community Development and the Applied Research & Evaluation Technologies Group (ARETGroup) to provide the Data Lab as well as rigorous external evaluation of program practices and participant outcomes. The Data Lab is a Information Management System, configured for data management system. It facilitates data collection, data management, and research collaboration.