What are public school educators in Michigan saying about using research to make decisions?

There are five characteristics that might influence whether educators use research to make decisions about school programs:

- **Compatibility**
  - Does it fit my situation?

- **Observability**
  - Is it accessible and reputable?

- **Complexity**
  - Is it easy to understand?

- **Relative Advantage**
  - Is it better than alternatives?

- **Trialability**
  - Am I experienced with research?

We talked with 54 educators in 2 Michigan counties about what is important when considering research for making decisions about school programs...

98% talked about **Compatibility**

"When I look at research, I like to see if the demographics are comparable to my [school's], so I can compare it because every community is different."

93% talked about **Observability**

"Research is again seeing the program in action at a school, being able to go to the school district's website to find out if the program worked or if it didn't."

87% talked about **Complexity**

"I think sometimes with research, you get so heavy with the terminology and academic-style language that you don't make it easy."

69% talked about **Relative Advantage**

"I'm someone who values anecdotal experiences, but for the purposes of where we're putting money and where we're putting time...it has to be a much more rigorous research base."

52% talked about **Trialability**

"Those who recently took classes and had to really get involved with their coursework probably receive [research] a lot easier than someone who has been outta school for a little bit."
The Michigan School Program Information Project

Interview Findings Report

Fall 2017

How can this help researchers?

Throughout the research process, researchers can use these characteristics to make research more useful to educators.

Conceptualization

- **Compatibility**: Work with educators to develop research questions and interventions.
- **Compatibility**: Collect data or test interventions in schools that are similar to the target audience.
- **Compatibility**: Be sure to test when, where, and for whom an intervention works.
- **Observability**: Ensure educators can access research reports by enlisting the help of information brokers.

Data Collection

- **Compatibility**: Develop interventions that are easy and cost effective to implement.

Analysis

- **Compatibility**: Does it fit my situation?
- **Observability**: Is it accessible and reputable?
- **Complexity**: Is it easy to understand?

Dissemination

- **Complexity**: Describe findings and present clear action items using non-technical language.

What's next?

We are Developing...

- An intervention to help connect educators and researchers using their existing social networks.
- Infographics like this one to let educators know about the latest research on school programs.

Want MORE?

CONTACT US at mispi@msu.edu for more detailed information or if you have questions about the study!