Research Methods Training Series:
Illinois State Board of Education

April 1, 2019
1:00–3:30 p.m. CT
Illinois State Board of Education
Springfield, Illinois

Agenda

1:00–1:05 p.m.   **Welcome**
Dr. Keshia Harris will lead introductions.

1:05–1:15 p.m.   **Project Overview**
Dr. Harris will review the sequence of meetings and topics covered during each training series. She will emphasize that the purpose of the final session is to summarize what's been reviewed in the previous sessions and to end with a focus on data analysis and interpretation. She will then review the goals of the day's meeting. Dr. Harris will highlight the importance of high-quality data and research for evidence-based decisionmaking in education settings.

1:15–1:40 p.m.   **Overview of Research Design**
Dr. Harris will give a presentation briefly reviewing the importance of identifying the research topic and research question(s) at the start of a project and provide a recap of data collection methods. She will then give examples of the appropriate applications of research designs to address different kinds of information needs, drawn from current projects that ISBE staff are working on.

1:40–2:10 p.m.   **Statistical Concepts**
Dr. Harris will present basic statistical concepts and data interpretation. She will discuss different kinds of variables and descriptive statistics. She will then cover concepts such as measures of central tendency, variability, effect sizes, and confidence intervals. Lastly, she will review how to conceptualize statistical output.

2:10–2:30 p.m.   **Activity: Interpreting Statistical Output**
Participants will work in small groups to identify appropriate kinds of variables for analysis of current research projects. Dr. Harris will then display graphs of statistical output and request participants to determine the type of variable that each display illustrates and how information is summarized for interpretation.

2:30–2:40 p.m.   **Break**

2:40–2:55 p.m.   **Qualitative Analysis**

Dr. Harris will review the processes of transcribing and coding, taking into account themes identified from the research topic and questions. She will review best practices in interpreting qualitative findings.

2:55–3:10 p.m.   **Methods and Interpretation**
Dr. Harris will present the uses and best practices in data application and interpretation. She will discuss how multiple methods can be applied to research studies.

3:10–3:25 p.m.   **Activity**
In small groups, participants will review existing research and discuss appropriate uses of methods and data interpretation.

3:25–3:30 p.m.   **Closing**