School Research Partnership Projects
(Fall 2009 – Spring 2013)

The Duke University School Research Partnership (SRP) Office facilitates collaboration between Duke researchers and area school districts and other community organizations to create and maintain mutually beneficial relationships. A key initiative of the SRP is to facilitate and coordinate multiple undergraduate independent study projects each semester. As part of this effort, students work in partnership with school and other agency leaders to produce a research paper as well as an action-oriented document on a topic requested by the partner. This list highlights all topics since the SRP’s independent study partnership began in Fall 2009.

Spring 2013

**Topic:** Literature survey of the CATCH (Caring about the Concepts that Help) in-school peer tutoring program  
**Student:** Allison Smalley, psychology and neuroscience major  
**Partner:** Terri Mozingo, Assistant Superintendent for Research & Accountability, Durham Public Schools  
**Advisor:** Ashley Corra and Jeff Quinn, research project managers, Center for Child and Family Policy  

**Topic:** Children’s Literacy  
**Student:** Shelby Hart-Armstrong, public policy major  
**Partner:** Natalie Beyer, Member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education  
**Advisor:** Ann Skinner, research project manager, Center for Child and Family Policy  

**Topic:** Impact of school voucher program on student achievement  
**Student:** Christina Chen, psychology and neuroscience major  
**Partner:** Heidi Carter, Chair, Durham Public Schools Board of Education  
**Advisor:** Desiree Murray, Associate Research Professor, Social Science Research Institute  

**Topic:** One-to-one technology program  
**Student:** Preston Cotnoir and Lindsay Rosenthal, psychology and neuroscience majors  
**Partner:** Angie Veitch, Director of Media and Technology, Orange County Schools  
**Advisor:** Beth Gifford, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy  
David Rabiner, Associate Director, Center for Child and Family Policy  

**Topic:** Survey on areas of academic need for incoming students  
**Student:** Julia Hoos, psychology and neuroscience major  
**Partner:** Geoff Coltrane, Director of Institutional Research and Extended Programs, NC School of Science and Mathematics  
**Advisor:** Ben Goodman, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy  

**Topic:** Eliciting input from high school students; high school students’ perceptions of their learning/education  
**Student:** Allison Schulhof, public policy major, Children in Contemporary Society certificate  
**Partner:** Tom Forcella, Superintendent, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools  
Magda Parvey, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools  
**Advisor:** Clara Muschkin, Assistant Research Professor, Sanford School of Public Policy
Fall 2012

**Topic:** Student Growth, Assessment and Family Involvement  
**Student:** Blake O'Connor, public policy major, psychology minor, Children in Contemporary Society certificate  
**Partner:** John Heffernan, Director, Central Park School for Children  
**Advisor:** Ben Goodman, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy

**Topic:** Strategies for eliciting input from high school students; high school students’ perceptions of their learning/education  
**Student:** Allison Schulhof, senior, public policy major, Children in Contemporary Society certificate  
**Partner:** Tom Forcella, Superintendent, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools  
Magda Parvey, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools  
**Advisor:** Leslie Babinski, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy

**Topic:** Standards-based grading  
**Student:** Jacqueline Stedman, psychology and neuroscience major, education minor  
**Partner:** Teresa Daye, Executive Director for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Durham Public Schools  
**Advisor:** Liz Snyder, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy

**Topic:** Middle School Scheduling: An Exploration of Best Practices  
**Student:** Seung-Yen Park, public policy and economics majors, Markets and Management Studies certificate  
**Partner:** Julie Spencer, Area Superintendent for Middle School Curriculum, Instruction and School Improvement, Durham Public Schools  
**Advisor:** Susan Wynn, Associate Professor of the Practice, Program in Education

**Topic:** Literature survey of the CATCH (Caring about the Concepts that Help) in-school peer tutoring program  
**Student:** Michelle Nguyen, public policy major, Children in Contemporary Society certificate  
**Partner:** Terri Mozingo, Assistant Superintendent for Research and Accountability, Durham Public Schools  
**Advisor:** Ashley Corra and Jeff Quinn, Research Project Managers, Center for Child and Family Policy

**Topic:** Out of school time  
**Student:** Markia Bonner, psychology and neuroscience major  
**Partner:** Mary Mathew, Program Director, East Durham Children’s Initiative  
**Advisor:** Nicole Lawrence, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy

**Topic:** Effective summer bridge program  
**Student:** Matt Truwit, psychology and neuroscience major  
**Partner:** Geoff Coltrane, Director of Institutional Research and Extended Programs, NC School of Science and Mathematics  
**Advisor:** David Rabiner, Associate Director, Center for Child and Family Policy

**Topic:** One-to-one technology program  
**Student:** Kirsten Osborne, public policy major  
**Partner:** Angie Veitch, Director of Media and Technology, Orange County Schools  
**Advisor:** Beth Gifford, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
Spring 2012

**Partner:** Mary Jane Palmer (Exec. Director of HR Operations, Durham Public Schools)
**Advisor:** Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
**Student:** Katherine Morrow
**Topic:** Beginning teacher mentoring in Durham Public Schools

**Partner:** Kristen Bell (Exceptional Children’s Programs, Durham Public Schools)
**Advisor:** David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
**Student:** Nicole Schollmeyer
**Topic:** Best practices for exceptional children’s programs: Focus on Durham’s elementary schools

**Partner:** Terri Mozingo (Testing, Durham Public Schools)
**Advisor:** Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
**Student:** Adria Kinney
**Topic:** Impact and policy implications of single-gender classrooms and schools

**Partner:** Angie Veitch (Director of Media & Technology, Orange County Schools)
**Advisor:** Beth Gifford (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
**Student:** Chris Gierl
**Topic:** Best practices for implementing a one-to-one laptop program

**Partner:** Mary Calhoun (Director of Testing & Accountability, Orange County Schools)
**Advisor:** Clara Muschkin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
**Student:** Cate Auerbach
**Topic:** Academically and intellectually gifted programs in Orange County, NC

**Partner:** Geoff Coltrane (Director of Institutional Research and Extended Programs, NC School of Science and Mathematics)
**Advisor:** David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
**Student:** Aayda Deshpande
**Topic:** Increasing number of minority applicants to the NC School of Science and Math

**Partner:** Bud Lavery (Communities in Schools)
**Advisor:** Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
**Student:** Nina Quattrocchi
**Topic:** Creating a summer program to reduce the loss in summer math achievement for low income students
Fall 2011

**Partner:** Wayde Johnson (Lead School Psychologist, Durham Public Schools)  
**Advisor:** Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Lauren Hendricks  
**Topic:** Disproportionality

**Partner:** Maria Johnson (Instructional Support Coordinator, Durham Public Schools)  
**Advisor:** David Malone (Duke Program in Education)  
**Student:** Ryan Lipes  
**Topic:** Smaller-Themed Learning Environments

**Partner:** Sheila Miglarese (Volunteer Services Coordinator, Durham Public Schools)  
**Advisor:** Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Ivy Prince  
**Topic:** Best Practices for Parent Involvement

**Partner:** Julie Spencer (Professional Growth & Development, Durham Public Schools)  
**Advisor:** Ben Goodman (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Emily Eshman  
**Topic:** Transition Centers for Transition Grade Levels where students deemed at-risk of failure are assigned to centers or classes during their transition year

**Partner:** Debbie Pitman (Area Superintendent, Durham Public Schools)  
**Advisor:** Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Rohan Taneja  
**Topic:** The Effect of Teacher Assistants on Student Achievement

**Partner:** Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)  
**Advisor:** Anne-Marie Iselin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Curtis Beach  
**Topic:** What are the best practices for reducing truancy?

**Partner:** Natalie Beyer (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)  
**Advisor:** Susan Wynn (Duke Program in Education)  
**Student:** Gulnaar Laur  
**Topic:** Impact of Performance-based grade level assignments vs. age-based grade assignment on academics on student's academics and outcomes?

**Partner:** Bud Lavery (Communities in Schools)  
**Advisor:** Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Allie Yee  
**Topic:** What are the best practices for positively impacting students’ motivation and persistence, particularly at the middle and high school level?

**Partner:** Richard Lemke (Duke Hospital School principal)  
**Advisor:** Nicole Lawrence (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Rachel Garcia  
**Topic:** Different ways that schools are structured and different approaches to meet educational needs of children who are hospitalized for extended periods.
Spring 2011

**Partner:** Mike Rieder (Deputy Secretary, Court Services, NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)

**Advisor:** Anne-Marie Iselin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)

**Student:** Kara Dimon

**Topic:** Examine the relation between the risk assigned to juveniles (i.e., low, medium, or high risk) with the disposition of their case (i.e., community-based program, probation, etc.).

**Partner:** Bud Lavery (Director of Communities in Schools of Durham)

**Advisor:** Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)

**Student:** Michael Asher

**Topic:** Efforts to reduce the drop-out rate in Durham

**Partner:** Bud Lavery (Director of Communities in Schools of Durham)

**Advisor:** Liz Snyder (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)

**Student:** Emily Bray

**Topic:** Communities in Schools reading initiative

**Partner:** Richard Lemke (Duke Hospital School principal)

**Advisor:** Nicole Lawrence (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)

**Student:** Jean Rheem

**Topic:** Collect survey data from the parents and possibly students at the school

**Partner:** Natalie Beyer (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)

**Advisor:** David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)

**Student:** Stephanie Kershaw

**Topic:** Research best practices for involving students in decision making

**Partner:** Eric Becoats (Durham Public Schools Superintendent)

**Advisor:** Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)

**Student:** Catalina Hidalgo

**Topic:** Best way to measure teacher effectiveness

**Partner:** Gail Taylor (Carter Community School principal)

**Advisor:** Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)

**Student:** Jeff Scholl

**Topic:** Whether Carter should expand to include a high school

**Partner:** Nancy Cox (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)

**Advisor:** Ben Goodman (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)

**Student:** Briana Nofil

**Topic:** Survey PTAs, art teachers, and principals at Durham Public Schools to assess their arts resources, including relationships with art program providers
Fall 2010

Partner:  Gary Kearney (Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)
Advisor:  Anne-Marie Iselin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student:  Maddie Pongor
Topic:  What does research say about the relation between suspensions and arrests?

Partner:  Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)
Advisor:  Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student:  Ian Hardwood
Topic:  What are schools doing for their students with the greatest challenges and what does research say about particular strategies?

Partner:  Stacey Wilson-Norman (Durham Assistant Superintendent of Elementary School Curriculum and Instruction)
Advisor:  Susan Wynn (Duke Program in Education)
Student:  Caitlin McGrath
Topic:  Guided strategies to increase vocabulary development in ELL students

Partner:  Eric Becoats (Durham Public Schools Superintendent)
Advisor:  David Malone (Duke Program in Education)
Student:  Alex Reese
Topic:  What strategies exist for implementing differentiated teacher compensation in public schools? How can we attract the best teachers to DPS?

Partner:  Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)/ Meg Goodhand (E.K. Powe Elementary School teacher)
Advisor:  Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student:  Dana Weiner
Topic:  What are the best practices for organizing an after-school tutoring program to boost student achievement?

Partner:  David Reese (Director, East Durham Children's Initiative)
Advisor:  David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student:  Chelsea Arrington
Topic:  What does research say about strategies to help disadvantaged students and their families operationalize plans to attend college, starting at an early age?

Partner:  Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)
Advisor:  Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student:  Laura Nickelhoff
Topic:  Effect of NCLB, high stakes testing, and school-based accountability on achievement gap or achievement of under-performing students/high performers

Partner:  Melanie Williams (Neal Middle School Assistant Principal)
Advisor:  Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student:  Swapanthi Nagulpally
Topic:  What does research say about the impact of uniforms and what has been the impact, if any, at Neal?
Partner: Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)  
Advisor: Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
Student: Kamilah Barnette  
**Topic:** What affects student’s and family’s decision to switch schools? When families leave Forest View, why do they leave and where do they go?  

**Spring 2010**

Partner: Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)  
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
Student: Naomi Harris  
**Topic:** How can schools increase parental involvement among low-income families?

Partner: Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)  
Advisor: Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
Student: Brian Pike  
**Topic:** What does the research say about the best approaches to structure Academically & Intellectually Gifted programs at the elementary school level?

Partner: Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)/  
Meg Goodhand (E.K. Powe Elementary School teacher)  
Advisor: Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
Student: Joy Lampkin  
**Topic:** What are the best practices for organizing an after-school tutoring program to boost student achievement?

Partner: Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)  
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
Student: Alison Byrnes  
**Topic:** How can local elementary schools make better use of the student tutors, provided by Duke, to assist struggling early readers?

Partner: Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)  
Advisor: Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
Student: Amy Czaja  
**Topic:** Research literature on the impact of nutrition on students’ cognitive functioning and how Durham’s school lunch program be made consistent with this

Partner: Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)  
Advisor: Susan Wynn (Duke Program in Education)  
Student: Hanna Guerrier  
**Topic:** Different models for structuring ESL programs at the elementary school level. What approaches have the strongest research support?

Partner: Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)  
Advisor: Anne-Marie Iselin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
Student: Graham Sharpe  
**Topic:** Alternatives to school suspensions: How does the use of suspensions within Durham’s secondary schools relate to a variety of school characteristics?
**Partner:** Robin Wright (K-12 Director, Exceptional Children's Program, Durham Public Schools)  
**Advisor:** Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Chelsea Koglmeier  
**Topic:** Effectiveness of The Corrective Reading Program in improving reading skills of exceptional students as well as others performing below grade level

**Partner:** Ellen Reckhow (Durham County Commissioner)  
**Advisor:** Robert Murphy (Center for Child and Family Health)  
**Student:** Anne-Marie Gordon  
**Topic:** The effect of family's mobility and the requisite school transitions on immigrant Spanish speaking youth.

### Fall 2009

**Partner:** Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)  
**Advisor:** Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Abigail Bowes  
**Topic:** Effective models for reaching our ESL (English as a second language) students, pullout vs. inclusion

**Partner:** Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)  
**Advisor:** David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Alison Byrnes  
**Topic:** Effective tutoring models at the elementary school level

**Partner:** Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)  
**Advisor:** Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Amy Czaja  
**Topic:** Synthesis of research on child nutrition and related cognitive and behavior outcomes

**Partner:** Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)  
**Advisor:** Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Brian Pike  
**Topic:** Effective models for reaching our AIG (academic & intellectually gifted) students, pullout vs. inclusion

**Partner:** Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)  
**Advisor:** Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Dana Weiner  
**Topic:** Effective after-school programs that increase student achievement

**Partner:** Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)  
**Advisor:** David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)  
**Student:** Naomi Harris  
**Topic:** Effective strategies for school-community engagement