

Position: Research Scientist

Organization: Boston University, Wheelock Educational Policy Center

Anticipated Start Date: Summer or Fall 2026

Term: Two years, with possibility of extension pending additional funding

Location: Boston, with option for work-from-home days

Salary Range: \$85,000 – \$100,000, commensurate with experience

Boston University's Wheelock Educational Policy Center (WEPC) conducts and disseminates rigorous, policy-relevant research in partnership with local, state, and federal policymakers and stakeholders to improve educational opportunities and holistic outcomes for traditionally marginalized students. WEPC's research addresses key policy questions focused on equalizing educational opportunity, improving specialized services for students, and supporting an effective educator workforce. More information about WEPC can be found at wheelockpolicycenter.org.

WEPC seeks a Research Scientist to design and lead large-scale quantitative research studies primarily focused on better understanding the policies, pathways, and practices shaping Connecticut's educator workforce, with opportunities to contribute to WEPC's broader portfolio of research partnerships. Working in close collaboration with state education agency leaders, the Research Scientist will leverage statewide longitudinal administrative data to conduct descriptive and causal analyses that directly inform policy decisions.

The Role

The Research Scientist will join a team of faculty, staff, and graduate students working at the intersection of rigorous research and actionable policy insight. This is a hands-on role for a scholar who is energized by policy-relevant questions and motivated by the opportunity to see their work shape real decisions impacting students and educators. An ideal candidate:

- Has training and expertise in quantitative research methods, including causal inference techniques (e.g., difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity, instrumental variables), and can independently design and execute studies using large-scale administrative data.
- Brings strong content knowledge in education policy issues, particularly around the educator workforce, and is excited to apply that expertise in a state-level partnership context.
- Is a skilled collaborator and communicator who can work effectively with both research colleagues and non-technical policy audiences, translating complex findings into clear, actionable insights.
- Is self-directed and organized, able to manage multiple workstreams simultaneously and deliver high-quality work on policy timelines.

Core Responsibilities

Research Design and Execution (50%)

- Serve as principal investigator for WEPC's Connecticut educator workforce research agenda, including studies focused on educator preparation program outcomes, alternative and grow-your-own pathways into teaching, teacher induction and mentoring supports, and the effects of licensure policy on workforce composition and quality.
- Assemble, clean, manage, and analyze large-scale longitudinal administrative datasets from the Connecticut State Department of Education and connected agencies.
- Develop and refine specific research questions in collaboration with WEPC leadership and state agency partners; select and apply appropriate analytical techniques to answer identified questions.
- Contribute to related research across WEPC's broader portfolio through partnerships focused on, e.g., postsecondary pathways, special education, and early childhood education.

Project Management & Partner Engagement (25%)

- Create and manage project timelines, maintaining consistent progress toward planned milestones and deliverables and coordinating with WEPC leadership and staff to ensure a streamlined approach to partner support and communication.
- Organize and facilitate regular meetings with CSDE to present research findings and implications in accessible, decision-relevant formats.
- Collaborate with CSDE to assess and strengthen data infrastructure and linkages, identifying opportunities to help the state expand its research capacity.

Dissemination & Field Contribution (25%)

- Produce polished research outputs including academic papers, policy briefs, data presentations, and summary reports tailored to researcher and practitioner audiences.
- Present research findings at academic conferences, policy convenings, and practitioner forums.
- Write and contribute to grant proposals and funding applications to support the continuation and expansion of the partnership.
- Contribute to WEPC's broader research community, including engagement with faculty, students, and other research staff.



Required Qualifications

- Ph.D. in education policy, economics, public policy, sociology, or a related field
- Demonstrated expertise in quantitative research methods, including applied econometrics and causal inference
- Experience working with large administrative datasets, e.g., from state or local education data systems
- Fluency in statistical software such as Stata or R
- Knowledge of current research and policy related to educator pipelines, preparation, and workforce development
- Strong written and oral communication skills, with the ability to translate research findings for practitioner and policymaker audiences
- Ability to manage multiple workstreams simultaneously and deliver on timelines

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience working directly with state education agencies or similar government partners
- Record of publication or working papers in peer-reviewed or policy venues
- Experience contributing to grant writing or funding proposals
- Familiarity with the education policy landscape in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Indiana

How to Apply

Submit a letter of interest and CV to wheelockpolicy@bu.edu. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Boston University is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, natural or protective hairstyle, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, military service, pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition, or because of marital, parental, or veteran status. We are a VEVRAA Federal Contractor.



Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development
Wheelock Educational Policy Center

