



Goals, Objectives, Activities, Success Indicators	Narrative
<p><b><u>Goal 1—Research and Development</u></b></p> <p>Develop research-based knowledge and alternative learning methods and advance their use.</p>	<p>Goal 1 acknowledges and deepens PREL’s role as a key player in the knowledge industry. Education, like any field, must develop and use new knowledge in order to grow, to thrive, and to meet the needs of students growing up in a fast-evolving world. One of the major goals of the U.S. Department of Education’s Strategic Plan, for example, is to “transform education into an evidence-based field.” This means conducting research that is carefully and rigorously designed and carried out. That is the only way to ensure that the evidence gathered is sound and that we are not simply continuing to provide educational services that do not work. The objectives under Goal 1 highlight those areas in which PREL specializes.</p> <p>One definition of research and development is “discovering new knowledge about products, processes, and services, and then applying that knowledge to create new and improved products, processes, and services that fill market needs.” So, our primary areas of focus for R&amp;D include appropriately using what we know about the region to plan and deliver services, using technology to provide and extend services, and building quality systems of assessment and accountability. We do this through research and program evaluation.</p> <p>We will advance research-based knowledge using multiple methods—qualitative as well as quantitative, innovative as well as time-honored.</p>



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<p><b><u>Goal 1—Research and Development</u></b></p> <p><b>Objective 1.1</b>—Research and develop methods for ensuring that educational planning and capacity development are culturally and linguistically appropriate.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand the role of culture and language in educational planning and professional development in the Pacific region.</li> <li>2. Establish partnerships with schools, districts, state education agencies (SEAs), community agencies, and other relevant groups for the study of planning and professional development.</li> <li>3. Identify or create, then implement and evaluate research-based practices that improve teaching and learning.</li> <li>4. Evaluate Objective 1.1 by reviewing quality assurance processes for evidence of cultural appropriateness.</li> </ol> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>Success Indicator for Objective 1.1:</i> Educational plans and professional development activities demonstrate integration of culture and language.</p> </div>	<p>The first objective under Goal 1 charges us with furthering our knowledge of those factors that make the Pacific region unique—its languages and cultures—and with using that knowledge to improve educational programming. We shall uphold the principle that no educational venture can succeed without taking culture and language into account.</p> <p>We will follow the guidance of the Pacific Way in research and development activities. This means, among many things, to involve elders, parents, and traditional leaders in all studies and planning.</p>



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<p><b><u>Goal 1—Research and Development</u></b></p> <p><b>Objective 1.2</b>—Research and develop best practices for capacity development with particular emphasis on the Pacific region.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct research studies that identify best practice in the delivery of educational support services.</li> <li>2. Evaluate past professional development activities provided by PREL and determine possible expansion opportunities for these.</li> <li>3. Evaluate Objective 1.2 by determining if studies and evaluations have identified successful elements of capacity development.</li> </ol> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>Success Indicator for Objective 1.2:</i> Key factors of effective educational support are found through research studies and evaluations of professional development activities.</p> </div>	<p>The second objective relates closely to the second Strategic Plan goal: capacity development. For professional development services to be most effective, they should be solidly researched and evaluated. This calls upon us to ensure that the services we provide have an evidentiary base.</p> <p>This means we need to build into our proposals and program plans the means to undertake evaluation of our own products and services.</p>



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<p><b><u>Goal 1—Research and Development</u></b></p> <p><b>Objective 1.3</b>—Research, develop, and provide standards-based reform to improve accountability for learning outcomes.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide technical assistance with standards definition and implementation.</li> <li>2. Develop assessment and accountability systems to meet client standards.</li> <li>3. Build capacity on assessment and accountability practices.</li> <li>4. Provide technical assistance for design and implementation of services locally.</li> <li>5. Design and implement dynamic databases for retrieval and storage of data to meet data management needs.</li> <li>6. Evaluate Objective 1.3 by determining increased capacity in standards-based reform systems.</li> </ol> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>Success Indicator for Objective 1.3:</i> Increased capacity of clients assisted and trained in standards, assessment, accountability, and data management systems.</p> </div>	<p>The final two objectives in Goal 1 strengthen certain PREL core competencies, including assessment and accountability and program evaluation. Both of these areas are in high demand because of the need to have solid evidence of effectiveness. Educational systems must use valid and reliable measures of student outcomes. These should be standards-based and enable systems to make course corrections, as well as to impose rewards and sanctions as appropriate.</p> <p>Both assessment and evaluation use research methods while providing service. Providing this kind of service means using the methods and approaches that are the basic tools of research and development.</p>



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<p><b><u>Goal 1—Research and Development</u></b></p> <p><b>Objective 1.4</b>—Research, develop, and provide planning and evaluation services and training to develop client and program capacity.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct planning and evaluation training as requested by clients.</li> <li>2. Facilitate organizational planning.</li> <li>3. Design and monitor experimental and quasi-experimental research.</li> <li>4. Conduct evaluations and produce evaluation reports and recommendations.</li> <li>5. Evaluate Objective 1.4 by determining increased capacity of clients receiving planning and evaluation services and training.</li> </ol> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>Success Indicator for Objective 1.4:</i> Increased capacity of clients receiving planning and evaluation services and training.</p> </div>	<p>There are very few programs that do not require some form of program evaluation. Valuable to both funding agencies and programs themselves, good evaluations answer the questions, <i>Did the program do what it said it would do?</i> and <i>Did the program achieve the outcomes it desired?</i> This objective covers both evaluation services that PREL offers to “external” clients as well as the internal evaluation of PREL programs.</p> <p>Again, research methods are an integral part of how evaluation services are provided.</p>