

4

The Value of Action Research in Middle Grades Education

Micki M. Caskey, Ph.D.
*Portland State University
Portland, Oregon*

ABSTRACT

Action research is one of the relevant methodologies for addressing research questions and issues in middle grades education. Accounting for nearly 20% of published middle grades research studies (Hough, 2003), action research has emerged as an important and appropriate research method. In addition to reviewing the historical context, this article provides definitions of action research and examines pertinent issues including dilemmas and benefits that relate to action research methodology. After identifying two research designs, participatory and practical, data collection techniques for practical action research are discussed. Specific information about action research in middle grades education includes a description of two exemplars. The article closes with recommendations for future research and concluding remarks.