



DR. NIU GAO

Niu Gao is a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). She is interested in K-12 education policies that close the opportunity gaps and improve student outcomes. Her recent work focuses on distance learning during COVID-19.

Prior to COVID-19, she examined California's latest reforms to improve student readiness for college and career, including the Common Core State Standards, the Next Generation Science Standards, and high school math placement reforms. Her other areas of expertise include the digital divide, A-G pathways, and high school graduation policies.

Her work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation and the S.D. Bechtel Foundation, among others. Dr. Gao and her work have appeared in media including Los Angeles Times, Education Week, Sacramento Bee, iHeartRadio, CalMatters, and EdSource. Before joining PPIC, she worked as a quantitative policy analyst at Stanford University. She holds a Ph.D. in Education Policy and Evaluation and a master's in economics, both from Florida State University.