

Dr. Curt Merlau, Ed.D.

Subject Matter Expert



Curt Merlau is a Manager at Public Consulting Group (PCG) responsible for leading Education Access & Funding Program services as well as supporting the development of PCG's general education consulting services throughout the Midwest. Curt has over 10 years of support experience, specializing in digital transformation, strategic planning, and system improvement.

Expertise

- Organizational Leadership and Learning
- Digital Transformation
- Improvement Science
- Emerging & Innovative School Models and Funding Programs

Experience

Prior to joining PCG, Curt led an education practice within an IT/data consulting firm, where he led the design and development of several innovative digital solutions. Under his leadership, the firm was named a "Most Innovative Companies in Education" in 2025 by Fast Company.

Curt began his career as a college admissions counselor, elementary educator, and high school administrator before supporting education reform initiatives with national and regional policy nonprofits. A champion for emerging and innovative school models, he served as a founding board member for an Indianapolis public charter school and served as an administrator for a network of private alternative high schools dedicated to diploma attainment and workforce readiness for disengaged youth.

Publications

- Harding, J. & Merlau, C. (2023, November). Enhancing Mental Health Support in Indiana's K-12 Schools. <https://irbe.library.vanderbilt.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/61c6774d-19da-4e5a-a5ab-ffcea8a21082/content>
- Merlau, C. (2023, May). Inter-Agency Collaboration and Elements of Effective Data Use in Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems
- Merlau, C. (2022, December). Program Evaluation Design for an Internal Training & Development Initiative

Presentations

- *Closing the Confidence Gap: Aligning State Policy and Frontline Realities in School Mental Health*. Harvard Strategic Data Project Convening. Workshop Speaker, May 2026.
- *Identifying New Pathways for Data Usage*. Ed-Fi Alliance. Workshop Speaker, November 2024.
- *From Enrollment to Eligibility: Using Ed-Fi to Automate the FSTC Program*. Ed-Fi Alliance Summit. Workshop Speaker, November 2026.

Awards

- Indianapolis Business Journal, Top 25 Tech Honoree, 2022
- Ed-Fi Alliance "Innovation of the Year" Community Award, 2023

Professional Networks

- Indiana Association for the Gifted
- Association for Education Finance and Policy
- American Evaluation Association
- Ohio Excels Education & Workforce Policy Fellowship

Certifications

- Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Business Strategy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Education

Curt has a Bachelor's degree in Education from Taylor University and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Indiana University. He earned his doctorate from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College in Organizational Leadership and Learning.

To learn more about PCG Subject Matter Experts, please contact us today.

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