

The remaining two items in the top ten are **funding mechanisms** (#4) and **educational planning and strategy** (#10). Funding mechanisms is coded for operations that include competitive grants to schools, training institutions and universities. This activity is linked directly with #15 School-based management, #18 Decentralization and autonomy, and #19 School development planning because these activities allow schools/institutions to compete for grants.

Educational planning and strategy, the final top 10 activity, is also linked to other top 20 activities: Education research (#12), Policy review, research and development (#20), and EMIS (#7). These activities promote the development of education plans that are informed by data and research.

II. Trends in Activities over Time

By looking the most common activities in shorter time periods (Table 2), it is also possible to see which activities have become more or less prevalent over time. In the 1998-2000 time period, the construction/refurbishment of **educational buildings** was the most commonly proposed activity and furnishing/equipment and teaching/learning materials were also in the top ten. These infrastructure/classroom supplies oriented activities have become less common in more recent time periods.

Inservice teacher education also was one of the most common activities in 1998-2000, and this activity remained prevalent across all the time periods until the past two fiscal years when it dropped to #17. Increasingly, **professional training/management strengthening** has become more common in education operations than teacher training. For all time periods between 2001 and 2011, professional training was one of the top three activities and, in the three most recent time periods, professional training outranked inservice teacher training.

Aside from professional training, there were only two other activities that were in the top 10 across all the time periods: **Funding mechanisms** ranked between #3 and #7 across all time periods, and **Education Management Information Systems (EMIS)** also was present across all the time periods, but at rankings that ranged from #5 to #9.

Table 1. 20 Most Commonly Proposed Activities in World Bank Education Projects (1998-2011)

	Activity	% of total projects
1	Professional training & development/Mgt strengthening	65.1
2	Inservice teacher education	61.3
3	Monitoring & Evaluation	60.4
4	Funding mechanisms	56.3
5	Educational buildings	51.9
6	Institutional development	48.7
7	EMIS	47.8
8	Teaching and learning materials	46.9
9	Furnishing and equipment	44.6
10	Educational planning and strategy	44.0
11	Curriculum	42.8
12	Education research	39.9
13	IEC Campaigns	38.1
14	National assessment systems	38.1
15	School-based management	35.8
16	Financial management	32.0
17	Textbooks	31.7
18	Decentralization and autonomy	30.2
19	School development planning	29.9
20	Policy review, research and development	29.6

Source: World Bank EdStats, January 2012