

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

Teacher Observation and Interview

CONSENT TO ACT AS A HUMAN PARTICIPANT

Project Title: The Evaluation of the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative

Co-PIs: Dr. Denis Newman, Dr. Harold Wenglinsky

Participant's Name: _____

DESCRIPTION AND EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES: The purpose of the evaluation is to assess, through a randomized controlled experiment, whether AMSTI has a positive effect on classroom practice and student test scores. The participant has been selected to be part of the study from a stratified random sample of 4th through 8th grade math and science teachers in AMSTI schools. The participant will be involved in two sets of procedures, a classroom/teacher observation and a teacher interview. The classroom/teacher observation will involve an observer sitting through a class devoted to AMSTI math and/or science activities. The content, pedagogical technique, and other aspects of classroom behavior will be observed and recorded through note taking. The purpose of the observation is not to evaluate the teacher, but to understand how AMSTI is implemented in Alabama's classrooms. The teacher interview will occur following the classroom/teacher observation and consist of two parts: (1) a mutual debriefing of the observation and (2) open-ended questions about the teacher's background, instructional practices and the impact of AMSTI. The observation will last the length of the instructional session, estimated to last on average 45 minutes. The follow-up interview will last no more than 20 minutes.

RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS: The teacher will not be expected to conduct the class in any way differently than if the observer were not present, but naturally the teacher may feel some additional stress from being observed. That stress will be minimized through the researcher's emphasizing that the observation is not to evaluate the teacher but to gain a picture of how AMSTI is implemented in classrooms.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS: The teacher will receive a stipend in recognition of his/her contribution to the study. The debriefing portion of the teacher interview will provide the teacher the opportunity to reflect on whether he or she met the goals for the lesson. This increased reflectivity thus may be a positive benefit. Also, a sense that the system cares enough about what teachers are doing with AMSTI to send an evaluator is probably reassuring to teachers. And, in general, the observation will permit AMSTI researchers to understand the nature of AMSTI classroom practices, and fidelity to the policy and program goals of AMSTI.

COMPENSATION/TREATMENT FOR INJURY: There is no risk of injury as a result of the observation or interview.

CONSENT: By signing this consent form, the participant agrees that he/she understands the procedures and any risks and benefits involved in this research. He/she is free to refuse to participate or to withdraw consent to participate in this research at any time without penalty or prejudice; participation is entirely voluntary. He/she is also free to ask any questions, either before or after the observation and interview. His/her privacy will be protected because his/her identity will not be disclosed, except to researchers involved in the project, and any reports or publications that result from the study will be written to prevent his/her being identifiable and his/her school from being identifiable. All individually identifiable data resulting from this observation and interview will be stored for a maximum of ten years in a secure location and then destroyed by shredding.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro Institutional Review Board, which insures that research involving people follows federal regulations, has approved the research and this consent form. Questions regarding participant rights in this project can be answered by calling Mr. Eric Allen at (336) 256-1482. Questions regarding the research itself will be answered by calling Denis Newman at 1-888-486-8886 x 127 or Harold Wenglinsky at (212) 367-4615. Any new information that develops during the project will be provided to the participant if the information might affect his/her willingness to continue participation in the project.

Signing this form constitutes agreement to participate in the as project described by

_____.

Participant's Signature*

Date