

Research Participant Consent Form: AMSTI Teacher Surveys

(Please submit completed and signed form to your principal)

Introduction

SERVE and its partners (Empirical Education Inc., Academy for Educational Development and Abt Associates) are working with the State of Alabama Department of Education and your school district to conduct scientifically based research on the effectiveness of AMSTI. The Principal Investigators for this study are Dr. Denis Newman of Empirical Education and Dr. Richard Sawyer of the Academy for Educational Development. As a teacher in one of the participating schools you are invited to take part in this rigorous study, which will provide your district and the state with important information. Your school will be part of the research project for two years between 2006 and 2008.

AMSTI Study

Your school will be one of 40 schools state-wide assisting the state in determining the effectiveness of AMSTI. From among the applicants this year, some of the schools were selected randomly to begin AMSTI this coming school year (AMSTI First group) and some were selected to begin AMSTI in the 2007-2008 school year (AMSTI Second group). The research will be comparing the student achievement and teaching practices between the schools implementing the AMSTI program and the schools that are not yet implementing AMSTI. Both groups are equally important to the research, and the random assignment assures that the research results are unbiased.

Summary of AMSTI Study Data collection

Researchers will be collecting administrative data (class rosters, student demographics and state test scores) from your school system for grades 4 through 8. Teachers in grades 4 through 8 (for both the AMSTI First and the AMSTI Second schools) will be asked to respond to web-based surveys on a monthly schedule. For some teachers, additional classroom observations and interviews will be conducted in the spring. Teachers who participate in the study for a whole school year by completing web-based surveys will receive a \$100 base honorarium per year. Teachers who are also observed and interviewed will receive a total honorarium of \$125 for that school year.

Consent to Participate in AMSTI Study Teacher Surveys

This consent form asks teachers to consent to participate in the study's web-based surveys. Teachers who are asked at a later date to participate in classroom observations and/or interviews will be given a separate consent form for those aspects of the research. A series of monthly surveys will be sent to all participating teachers, January through April of 2006/07 and 2007/08. We will send you an email that will have a web link you can click on to access each survey. The surveys will help the researchers record the average amount of time spent on math and science, program implementation and other factors that will contribute to the study. The surveys contain up to 30 items and should take no more than 30 minutes. If a teacher has not yet submitted their survey after 3 days of its distribution, they will be sent friendly reminders via email and/or phone.

The research will not expose participants to any risks beyond the normal work of teaching and learning. The benefit of participation is the opportunity to help provide evidence as to whether the AMSTI program is effective. Continued participation in the research is voluntary. You may refuse to answer particular questions. If you wish to withdraw at any time, you may do so

without penalty, except for the loss of the honorarium. If at anytime you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact: Denis Newman toll free at 1-888-486-8886 x 127.

It is important to understand that we are evaluating the AMSTI program and training and not your teaching. Reports will not identify individuals or schools by name. Our company will provide its services to your district in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). All data provided to our company will remain the property of your district, even while stored at our company's database. Our company will store the data electronically in a secure location and take precautions to ensure the data is accessible only to company personnel and consultants or to authorities legally authorized for access. Personally identifying information will be removed so that students and teachers will be identified only by unique numeric IDs within our company's database. Unless otherwise requested by your district, our company will retain the data in a secure location without individual identification for use in re-analysis and follow-on research. All paper documents will be shredded after 10 years. The district will be provided with a copy of the report, which will include the objective evidence of the program's effectiveness.

By signing this consent form, you agree that you understand the procedures and any risks and benefits involved in this research, and that you agree to participate in the project during the 2006-2007 school year. You are free to refuse to participate or to withdraw your consent to participate in this research at any time without penalty or prejudice; your participation is entirely voluntary. Your privacy will be protected because you and your school will not be identified by name as a participant in this project.

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 your rights as a participant in this project can be answered by calling Mr. Eric Allen at (336) 256-1482. Questions regarding the research itself will be answered by Denis Newman by calling 1-888-486-8886 x 127. Any new information that develops during the project will be provided to you if the information might affect your willingness to continue participation in the project.

By signing this form, you are agreeing to participate in the project.

Participant Name

Participant's Signature

Date

Please provide the following contact information:

Teacher Name: _____

School Name: _____ School System: _____

How can we contact you? Please supply the email address that is most convenient for you—either your home or school email address. We will use this for distributing the surveys. If you have no email, write “none”. _____

Please supply phone numbers, including school, home, and mobile if possible, so that we can follow up on surveys and schedule interviews. Indicate the phone number you prefer we try first, and the best times to reach you at that number.

Please provide any other information about your availability and how we can best contact you.

Please let us know about any questions you may have. Denis Newman at Empirical Education, Inc., will respond to all questions promptly.

Research Participant Responsibilities: Surveys

All Participating Teachers

Substitute Teacher Participation. If you are out for more than a month, please notify a research manager below and provide the name of the teacher who will be substituting for you.

Questions/Comments? Contact Information

Denis Newman
Email: lsterling@empiricaleducation.com
Phone number: 650-328-1734 x 127 (Pacific Time)
Toll-free phone number: 1-888-486-8886 x 127
Fax: 650-328-1794