Appendix B

Study Brochure

STUDY OF EDUCATION

DATA SYSTEMS AND

DECISION MAKING

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development

For more information, please contact:

Bernadette Adams-Yates
U.S. Department of Education
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Room 6W207
Washington, DC 20202
(202) 205-9898
bernadette.adams.yates@ed.gov

Christine Padilla
SRI International
333 Ravenswood Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
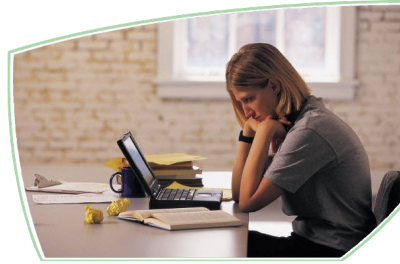(650) 859-3908
christine.padilla@sri.com

Purpose

This study, a component of the U.S. Department of Education's National Technology Activities (NTA), will document the availability of systems and supports for using data to improve instruction, and the prevalence and nature of data-informed decision making in districts and schools. It will examine the challenges that educators face in trying to use data systems in their efforts to improve instruction and the practices employed by districts and schools that have used data to inform their decisions and have obtained successful outcomes for their students. The information collected through this study will be used in designing outreach efforts by the U.S. Department of Education to stimulate and enhance the use of data systems to improve instruction.

Study Design

The study consists of data collection activities at the state and local level to provide (1) nationally representative quantitative data on the prevalence of data-use practices and (2) in-depth, qualitative data on the nature of promising practices in schools and districts that are linking data analysis to instructional decision making.

States

State data collected from participants in activities sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and other organizations will be analyzed.

Districts

District-level data will be collected in fall 2007 from approximately 500 district administrators. Selected school districts will be representative of the nation in terms of geographic region, enrollment size, and district/community income level.

Schools

Teacher focus groups and individual interviews with principals and teachers will be conducted in 30 schools during the 2006-07 school year. Schools will be selected to participate based, in part, on school performance and teachers' use of data to make instructional decisions.

Study Questions	Data Source		
	States	Districts	Schools
What kinds of systems are available to support district and school data-driven decision making?	✓	✓	
Within these systems, how prevalent are tools for generating and acting on data?	✓	✓	✓
How prevalent are state and district supports for school use of data systems to inform instruction?	✓	✓	✓
How are school staff using data systems?			✓
How does school staffs' use of data systems influence instruction?			✓

Timeline

This study will be conducted over a period of two years beginning October 2006 and extending through September 2008. An interim report describing preliminary analyses of