

Attachment A-4. Superintendent Email

Dear [District Superintendent],

The Regional Education Laboratory Southwest (REL Southwest) and the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) would like to invite your district to participate in a REL Southwest study investigating relationships between measures of students' noncognitive factors (e.g., persistence, learning strategies academic behaviors, academic mindsets) and their transitions to high school, as well as student's perceptions of their school climate. The goal of the study is to identify factors that help students transition to high school and have a successful ninth grade year.

High schools in participating districts will be asked to administer a survey to all ninth grade students during the fall of 2015. In addition to the areas listed above, the survey asks students to respond to questions about their teachers, schoolwork, transitions to high school, peers, parents' assistance with planning for the future, and plans for the future. It should take students approximately 20 minutes to complete the survey. Students will not be asked questions about any sensitive topics. Schools will also be asked to provide student names and ID numbers to pre-populate the surveys, and districts will be asked to provide participating students' grade 9 GPAs at the end of the school year.

In return, participating high schools will receive a customized survey report. The survey reports will present aggregated results for all survey items and scales contained on the survey. Each customized school report will present the results for the individual high school, as well as the results for all other participating high schools combined. Schools will also receive a copy of the final study report, if desired.

All study results published in public reports will be aggregated across all participating high schools, and results for any group of less than 5 students will be omitted to protect confidentiality. **Absolutely no individual, school, or district results will be made public in any way.**

This study is voluntary. If you would like more information or wish to participate in the study, please contact Deborah Van Kummer at (512) 391-6551 or deborah.vankummer@sedl.org.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1850-xxxx. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes/hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is voluntary. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, application or survey, please contact (Deborah Van Kummer by email at deborah.vankummer@sedl.org directly. [Note: Please do not return the completed instrument, form, application or survey to this address.]

Sincerely,

REL Southwest

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