



Invitation to Participate in Data Analysis Study

Intent

Researcher (Jenny Grant Rankin) is looking for district and/or site administrators who are interested in making arrangements for groups of educator staff to voluntarily participate in a study. The study is being conducted in pursuit of a Ph.D. but is driven by Jenny's passion for helping students via the researched topic.

Format

Jenny will provide participating staff with report handouts they will use to answer 10 multiple-choice survey questions online.

Location: Each group's own school or district computer lab

Time Commitment: Approximately 20 minutes (took less than 15 min. in field tests)



Added Bonus: In appreciation of participants' time and involvement, Jenny (a former teacher, site administrator, and district administrator) is happy to conclude each 20-minute survey session with a free professional development segment up to 1 hour in length on a pre-arranged topic of your choice (e.g., data analysis, common core transition, etc.).

Study

Purpose: Most educators incorrectly interpret student data. Decisions based on these false analyses impact students. Much research has explored ways staff and training can improve analyses, but few researchers have explored ways in which computer/online data systems (that are being used to view the data) can better help. This study will be used to determine how data systems can best accompany student data reports with data analysis guidance to improve the accuracy with which educators analyze the data contained therein.

Significance: This study will fill a research gap by helping to identify how, as well as to what extent, data systems can increase educators' data analysis accuracy by providing analysis support within data systems and their reports. The researcher will send study findings to all 39 vendors of data systems profiled by Electronic Learning Assessment Resources (ELAR) (<http://www.clrn.org/elar/search.cfm>). Improvements data systems make in light of this study have the potential to improve the accuracy with which educators analyze data generated by their data systems and can thus, most importantly, benefit students.

Confidentiality: Per Title 45 CFR 46.102(i) of Federal Regulations, the study will involve minimal risk to participants, meaning no risk greater than risks normally encountered in everyday life (Office of Human Subjects Research, National Institutes of Health, 2005). No educators' names will be collected in the survey, meaning response data will remain anonymous (as opposed to merely confidential) so no individual feels embarrassment or incurs repercussions for performance in the study.

Contact

If interested in participating or acquiring more information, please email Jenny Rankin at JennyGrantRankin@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration.