

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear parent or guardian,

Researchers at Florida State University (FSU) are studying how teachers help children in the elementary grades learn math, and your child's school is participating in this study. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this study and to ask your permission for your child to participate in it.

If you agree, your child will take a math test at the beginning of the school year and again at the end. Your child's teacher will administer the test, and the school will make the tests available to the researchers at FSU for the purpose of evaluation of the school's math program. Your child might also be selected to participate in a 30-minute mathematics problem-solving interview conducted by researchers from FSU. In addition, the school district will provide the researchers with the following information about your child: name, district/state identification number, gender, race/ethnicity, participation in free lunch (yes/no), English Language Learner status, and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) status. The district also will provide results of the district-administered mathematics assessments for grades K–7, including the iReady Diagnostic and the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), where applicable.

All information collected as part of this study will be kept confidential, to the extent allowed by law. Confidentiality will be ensured in the following ways: In public reports of the results of this project, we will report only results that have been averaged over large numbers of children. No child or family will ever be identified publicly. All the tests and their results will be safely stored at FSU.

Your child's participation in this project is entirely voluntary. If you do not want your child to participate, your child may still complete the tests under the direction of the school principal, but identifiable information will not be shared with the researchers.

If at any time you have questions about the study, you may contact Dr. Robert Schoen at the Learning Systems Institute, Florida State University at (850) 645-9926 or rschoen@lsi.fsu.edu.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the study and would like to talk to someone other than the researcher(s), you are encouraged to contact the FSU Institutional Review Board, which supervises all FSU research involving humans. They can be reached at (850) 644-7900, at humansubjects@fsu.edu, or in writing or in person at 2010 Levy Street, Research Building B, Suite 276, FSU Human Subjects Committee, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2742.

We hope you will allow your child's data to be included in the study, which is intended to help schools better understand how to support teaching of mathematics for understanding.

If you do not want your child to participate in this study, please contact me, Dr. Robert Schoen, at the Learning Systems Institute, Florida State University at (850) 645-9926 or K-5math@lsi.fsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Schoen, Ph.D.

Associate Director, Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (FCR-STEM) at Florida State University