



LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE
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ALLIANCE FOR COLLABORATIVE CHANGE IN SCHOOL SYSTEMS (ACCESS)

**The Bridging Professional Development Project
Informed Consent: Teacher Permission**

Dear Teacher,

As the director of the ACCESS mathematics program at the University of California, Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science (LHS), I would like to invite you to take part in an exciting professional development opportunity. ACCESS, in collaboration with Stanford Research Institute (SRI) International and the University of Texas at Austin, is offering a two-year professional development program, which started last summer (2006) entitled, *The Bridging Professional Development Project (BPD)*. This program is part of a National Science Foundation-funded research project that will have impact on classroom instruction in mathematics at the middle grades. We have a few openings and would like to invite 20 additional teachers to participate in the 2007-2008 Bridging project.

If you agree to take part in this research project, we will invite you to participate in 2007-2008, including a two-week institute in summer 2007 (for a total of 60 hours). The summer institute will include standards-based mathematics with a focus on middle school topics taught at the adult level. The summer workshops will be held at LHS and facilitated by ACCESS staff.

- In Week 1, the mathematical content will focus on coordinate geometry.
- In Week 2, the focus will be on applying this knowledge to one of two different aspects of teaching, either developing ways to coordinate the essential concepts taught in middle grades across grade levels through vertical teaming, or developing structured ways to help make effective decisions in classroom teaching.

All teachers will be randomly assigned to one of the two Bridging interventions in Week 2. Both programs are designed to be of high quality and usefulness.

As this is a research study, in addition to your participation in the professional development activities, our research team will ask you to participate in written surveys, telephone interviews, and classroom observations. The surveys will involve questions about your knowledge of mathematics teaching practices, expectations about students, and other aspects of your practice and school environment. The surveys will take approximately 2-1/2 hours and be given at the beginning and end of the summer workshops. Three phone interviews throughout the year will ask you about your experiences teaching and participating in our project. These interviews may be audio-taped with the your permission and will be approximately 1 hour in length, for about 3 hours total. Classroom observations will take place 2 to 10 days during the project, for about 4 hours total.

You will need to commit to about 70 hours for the study, beginning with a phone interview in spring 2007 and the summer 2007 workshops, and including research participation as outlined above. Some teachers may be asked to commit about 16 hours more in the interviews and classroom observations in order to provide more detailed information on their involvement. Throughout the 2007-08 school year, there may be an additional opportunity for teachers to meet monthly for support in applying what they learned in the summer to their teaching practices. This will involve an additional 30 hours of professional development throughout the 2007-2008 school year.

Researchers from the BPD Project will also gather information on classroom activities. We request your participation in this research data collection process which, in addition to classroom observations, may include sending to the BPD Project research team samples of student classroom work and standardized test scores. Students' names should be removed from all work and scores before it is released to the researchers.

As required by law, we will take every precaution to maintain the confidentiality of all information collected about you and your students. Because we are taking video-recordings of you and your classroom, there is a small risk someone outside of the research team may recognize you if they see the tape. Researchers will store video and electronic files securely and any paper notes in a locked cabinet, both will use a unique identification number assigned to you rather than your name. Only key project staff at LHS and SRI will have access to the data. In addition, we will not use your name or other identifying information in any reports of the research without your additional consent. After the research is completed the same confidentiality guarantees provided here will be applied to any notes saved for use in future research.

While there is a small chance that the confidentiality of the information collected could be compromised, we will take care to prevent this from happening. We hope that the research will benefit you by giving you the opportunity to deepen your mathematics knowledge and enrich your teaching practices. There are no direct benefits to your students.

There will be no costs to you. You will receive a stipend (up to \$1150) in increments for your participation and completion of the 70 hours of project activities as outlined above. An additional \$350 stipend will be available for participants in the additional professional development.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. You are free to refuse to take part. You may refuse to answer any questions and may stop taking part in the study at any time. Whether or not you participate in this research will have no bearing on your relationship with your school, district, or ACCESS. For any student who refuses participation, you will be required not to provide samples of student work to the BPD research staff, and the student will be seated off-camera for any classroom observations.

If you have any questions about the research, you may call me, Dr. Stevens, at (510) 642-6280. If you agree to take part in the research, please sign the form below and fax it to me at (510) 642-9642. Please keep the other copy of this agreement for future reference. If you have any questions about your rights or treatment as a participant in this research project, please contact the University of California at Berkeley's Committee for Protection of Human Subjects at (510) 642-7461, or e-mail: subjects@berkeley.edu.

Sincerely,



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By signing this form, you are verifying that you have read the attached letter about research participation in the Bridging Professional Development Project (BPD). By giving your permission to participate in the research data collection process, you agree to the following:

1. Random assignment to one of the two Bridging workshops in Week 2 of Summer 2007.
2. Participating in surveys and telephone interviews during the course of your participation in the project.
3. Allowing you and your students to be videotaped and/or audio-taped during regular classroom instruction and activities when BPD Project researchers observe the classroom. This will occur during 2 to 10 classroom periods during the school year.
4. Sending to the BPD Project research team samples of that student's classroom work and standardized test scores. Students' names should be removed from all work and scores before it is released to the researchers.

As required by law, your confidentiality is essential to the research process and will be protected in several ways, as outlined in the attached letter. We hope that the research will benefit you by giving you the opportunity to deepen your mathematics knowledge and enrich your teaching practices. You will receive a stipend (up to \$1150) in increments for your participation and completion of project activities as outlined above. There are no direct benefits to your students.

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary. You may at any time refuse participation. This will have no influence on your relationship with your school, district, or ACCESS.

Please check one of the following:

- You **CONSENT** to participate in the described research data collection for the BPD Project.
- You **DO NOT CONSENT** to participate in the described research data collection for the BPD Project.

As outlined in the letter, your permission is also requested to use images or sounds recorded of you during regular classroom instruction. These images or sounds would be used only in professional research presentations, such as conferences and teacher trainings.

- You **GIVE** permission to use recordings of your images or sounds.
- You **DO NOT GIVE** permission to use recordings of your images or sounds.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact the University of California at Berkeley's Committee for Protection of Human Subjects at (510) 642-7461, or e-mail: subjects@berkeley.edu.

Your signature below indicates that you affirm the boxes you have chosen to check above.

Teacher's Name (print): _____

Teacher's Signature: _____

Please fax the completed form to ACCESS at (510) 642-9642.

