



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

February 08, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to tell you about an exciting new research project in which your participation will be invaluable. At the Louisiana Department of Education we know that you have been working to raise the expectations for the students in your system. Specifically you have been implementing high quality curriculum, local assessments and strong professional development to support your educators with this work.

Given the investment of time and resources you have made, we believe that you and your peers deserve the best possible evidence to support future decisions. To identify the textbooks and curricular materials that are most effective in helping students achieve the new standards, the Department has partnered with the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard to conduct a research study, *the National Evaluation of Curriculum Effectiveness*. The evidence gathered from this study will build a national-level evidence base around effective curriculum materials and supporting teachers' use of such materials.

A critical component of the study is a brief survey that will be sent to schools across the state. It will ask you and your schools to provide information about which math textbooks are being used in fourth and fifth grade classrooms and the types and amount of training and support that teachers are receiving to use those materials. A sample of schools in your district have been invited to participate. The researcher team will contact you directly with more information. The value of the study's findings to informing and improving practices in our schools hinges on the input that you and your teachers provide through these surveys.

By encouraging your schools to complete the survey about textbook and curriculum materials, you can help us improve the evidence base for everyone. This work will produce very timely evidence about which textbook and curriculum materials hold promise for our teachers and students. Findings from this study will be shared with state and school system leaders in the fall to inform your current and future purchasing decisions. Further, it will provide the Department with valuable information about how we can support you more effectively in these efforts.

Thank you for your participation and support.

Sincerely,

John White

State Superintendent of Education

Louisiana Believes