



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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To: Linus J. Guillory, Jr., Ph.D., Chief Schools Officer
From: Paul Schlichtman
RE: Doctoral Research Proposal, Jill Rothschild
Date: September 27, 2019

Jill Rothschild, director of the Freshman Academy at Lowell High School, is enrolled in a doctoral program at UMass Lowell. A requirement of the program is to complete an organizational problem improvement study. Ms. Rothschild is looking to study persistent disparities in performance among Latinx students, focused on teachers at the Freshman Academy.

Ms. Rothschild proposes to invite Freshman Academy staff to complete the Color-Blind Racial Attitudes Scale, a self-report questionnaire with 20 items measuring racial attitudes. Subsequent to the survey, Ms. Rothschild proposes to identify two samples of teachers. A sample of three teachers (described in the proposal as Sample 2) will conduct unstructured observations of teachers selected from a larger sample of 24 teachers. The three teachers in Sample 2 will document their experiences in reflective journals over an eight week period, and will participate in interview and focus groups.

This research is consistent with district efforts to address disparate outcomes among Latinx students.

The work conforms with Policy LC. I recommend approval by the school committee.