



*Lowell Public Schools*  
*Lowell High School*  
*50 Fr. Morissette Blvd*  
*Lowell, Massachusetts 01852-1050*



*Jill Rothschild*  
*Freshman Academy*

*Tel. (978) 275-6301*  
*Fax (978) 937-8902*  
*Email: JRothschild@lowell.k12.ma.us*

To: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools and Members of the Lowell School Committee

From: Jill Rothschild, Director of the Freshman Academy, Lowell High School

Date: September 26, 2019

Subject: Executive Memo for Dissertation Request as per Lowell School Committee Policy LC

I am currently a doctoral candidate in the UMASS Lowell Ed.D. program. The purpose of UML's practitioner based Ed.D is to prepare educators to be leaders who address problems of practice in their local contexts. I am now in the final year of the program and am ready to undertake my dissertation-in-practice study.

As a student researcher, I am reaching out to you for institutional support to carry out my dissertation-in-practice within the Lowell Public Schools. Below I have included information that addresses key areas as outlined in the Lowell Public School's policy on Relations about Education Research and Service Centers.

1. Objectives of Research: The purpose of this research is to understand teacher attitudes and how they impact student-teacher interactions. Specifically, I seek to understand how teacher attitudes impact grade nine Latinx students' academic and behavioral performance in order to better serve this underperforming student population.
2. Impact of Research: This study will help me understand LHS grade nine teacher attitudes and their impact on student-teacher interactions and Latinx student performance. Specifically, this study will enable me to identify, if at all, the existence of a colorblind ideology among grade nine LHS teachers. Additionally, I will be able to explore how such attitudes affect student outcomes, academically and behaviorally, and assess staff readiness to engage in culturally responsive teaching professional development.
3. Privacy: Pseudonyms will be used in all data that are collected (i.e., participant survey data, participant observations, participant interviews, participant focus groups, and participant journals) to protect the confidentiality of the participants and school. Only the student researcher and her advisor, Dr. Uy will have access to the data which will be stored on password protected laptops. Consent will be obtained for all staff members involved and participants may remove themselves from the study at any time.



*Lowell Public Schools*  
*Lowell High School*  
*50 Fr. Morissette Blvd*  
*Lowell, Massachusetts 01852-1050*



*Jill Rothschild*  
*Freshman Academy*

*Tel. (978) 275-6301*  
*Fax (978) 937-8902*  
*Email: JRothschild@lowell.k12.ma.us*

4. Scope of Research: Data will be collected between October 2019 through December 2019. Participants engaged in peer observations will not lose instructional time. Additional time will be needed for staff to participate in staff interviews, focus groups, and journaling, but this data will not interrupt participants' daily instructional responsibilities. This data will be collected outside of school hours.
5. Interruption of Instructional Time: No instruction will be interrupted as a result of this research as teachers will not be asked to deviate from their natural teaching instruction.
6. Faculty Member Approval: The Principal Investigator of this study is Dr. Phitsamay Uy, my dissertation advisor. Dr. Uy will oversee this dissertation study and has direct responsibility of the study. I have passed my dissertation proposal defense and have received preliminary IRB approval from UML and Head of School Marianne Busted to conduct this research. Enclosed is my research proposal which provides further explanation about the study's design, participants, and guiding questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Rothschild