



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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To: Liam Skinner, Chief Schools Officer
From: Abigail Anderson
RE: Doctoral Research Proposal, Ginger Coleman
Date: January 11, 2022

Ginger Coleman, Principal of Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, and is enrolled in a doctoral program at American International College's Educational Leadership and Supervision program. A requirement of the program is to complete a dissertation-in-practice research study. Ms. Coleman's objective of her research is to conduct a research study on the deeper understanding of the current perceptions from the general education teachers' perspective of the adequacy of professional development (PD) on their preparations to teach the science of reading (SoR) through their undergraduate/graduate coursework, ongoing professional development and/or classroom experiences to address and teach the five components of literacy development in order to improve student outcomes and reading proficiency through effective literacy instruction.

Ms. Coleman proposes to invite twelve to fifteen public school certified general education elementary teachers in (Lowell) a large urban district Massachusetts will be recruited to participate in this research study. When 12 of said teachers have agreed to participate in the research study, understanding that consent to participate may be rescinded at any time during the study, in-person or Virtual interviews will be scheduled at a time that is most convenient for each participant. The semi-structured interviews will be comprised of 10 open-ended interview questions and are anticipated to be approximately 60 to 90 minutes in duration.

The research results from this study will add to the limited literature regarding the teachers' perspectives on the adequacy of professional development (PD) to teach the science of reading (SoR). The study results may inform school districts of best practices for improving reading proficiency and student outcomes by better supporting teachers' ongoing training, professional development opportunities, and effective classroom practices. Overall study findings will be shared with the Superintendent of Schools and Chief Schools Officer.

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