

APPENDIX A

E-MAIL REQUEST FOR TEACHER PARTICIPATION

My name is Matt Kutscher and I'm currently a graduate student of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who is at the research phase of my program. My background is in mathematics education and my current studies are in the areas of instructional technology.

I've been working with Matt Larson the past couple of months on studying, examining, and modifying materials Chuck Friesen had created several years ago using a University product called EDU. Those materials focused on providing additional practice on mathematics skills that students were having specific problems, such as multiplying fractions, addition of decimals and greatest common factors. Chuck's used these materials at both the High School and Middle School level and there appears to be some pretty impressive results on student performance. Matt Larson and I would like to see if these online interventions might show similar benefits for elementary students.

In an effort to narrow the scope of this project, we decided that fifth grade might be the ideal group to initiate this study. So, I'm in the process of trying to identify individuals working with either intervention programs or those who are teaching 5th grade mathematics and might be interested in participating.

To give you a small sample of what I'm talking about, please take a look at the following website:

<http://calculus.unl.edu/edu/classes/preview/>

If you click on any of the links on the left you can see the types of assessments that are available. If you get prompted for a username and password, please use "student" for both.

These materials were designed for Chuck's project and I've been modifying each of the elements to fit a little closer with the 5th grade materials.

What I'm looking for are individuals who might be interested in participating with their students either as an experimental group, who would actually use the online materials for reteaching mathematical concepts, or as a control group, where you actually conduct normal instruction and reteaching.

The timeline when I'm looking to begin my study is the first part of second semester, so mid to late January and running until about the first or second week of February.

In the meantime I was wondering if you would be interested in participating in this study or talking about it further. I'd be more than happy to come out and talk some more about this project.

Thanks

Matt Kutscher