



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007

General Information: www.bc.edu/efe ■ efe.research@bc.edu

Thank You

Thank you for your participation in the e-Learning for Educators research study! You are making an integral contribution to the knowledge and understanding about the effectiveness of online professional development for teachers. Results from this study will contribute to the pool of data regarding the best ways to help students learn. So thanks once again for your participation and your continuing efforts in helping us to conduct this important study. It certainly would not be possible without you! We are sending you this newsletter to provide you with initial information about the next phase of the research study, and also to inform you about the experiences thus far of the other participants in the study!

Performance on Student Tests

Nearly 8,000 students completed the student test in the spring semester of the 2006–2007 school year! Many of you wanted to know how your students performed on the test compared to other participating students. As you can see from the average scores below, these tests were difficult for many students. The student tests target content areas that have been identified as particularly difficult for students, and the test items represent some of the most challenging items found on state and national standardized tests. One of the goals of the e-Learning for Educators professional development workshops is to provide teachers with strategies to help students develop their abilities and succeed with these more challenging topics and test items. Thus, the student tests can be quite challenging for students.

Grade	Number of Students	Test	Average Score
4th Grade	1,733	Reading Comprehension	58%
		Vocabulary	63%
		Writing	43%
5th Grade	1,937	Algebraic Thinking	49%
		Fractions	42%
		Measurement	58%
7th Grade	2,462	Reading Comprehension	60%
		Vocabulary	56%
		Writing	49%
8th Grade	1,775	Functions	44%
		Geometric Measurement	43%
		Proportional Reasoning	43%

Online Professional Development Workshops

Those of you in the experimental group have either already completed or are in the process of completing your first online professional development workshop! We wanted to let you know what your fellow teacher participants thought about these workshops. The table to the right shows the average score of each workshop, as reported by the teacher participants who have completed the first workshop.

Grade	Workshop	Average Score
4th Grade	Best Practices for Vocabulary Instruction in the Elementary Classroom	4.6
5th Grade	Using Models to Understand Fractions	4.4
7th Grade	Best Practices for Vocabulary Instruction in the Middle Classroom	4.6
8th Grade	Proportional Reasoning	4.3

(1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Very good, 5 = Excellent)

Upcoming Requirements

You have already completed the Teacher Pre-Survey, and administered the first Student Test. The remaining requirements are:

- Beginning of 2007–2008 School Year: administration of Student Pre-Test
- End of 2007–2008 School Year
 - administration of Student Post-Test
 - completion of Teacher Post-Survey

Soon, we will e-mail you information about registering your new classroom of students to take the pre- and post-tests. The pre-test should be administered as close to the beginning of the school year as possible, preferably before instruction begins.

For those of you in the **experimental** group, you will also participate in two more online professional development workshops. The next workshop will begin in early October and the final workshop will begin in January, 2008. Soon, we will e-mail you information about the exact dates of these workshops, and how you can register for the workshops.

Benefits of Participation

As a reminder, you will receive a **\$300 stipend** upon completion of the study requirements. You will also continue to receive the instant feedback from the student tests.

- **Teachers in the control group** will have free access to the online professional development workshops once the study completes.
- **Teachers in the experimental group** are currently eligible for state-specific credits and graduate credit for their participation in the online professional development workshops.

Please see our website for more details: www.bc.edu/efe.



Reminder

Please check to make sure that your school's computer lab still has **Flash v8** or higher installed! Sometimes software changes are made over the summer, so please double-check this before gathering your students to administer the test in the fall! There is a link on the study website (www.bc.edu/efe) to check which version of Flash is currently installed.

Contact Information

Information about the study can be found at our website:
www.bc.edu/efe

You can also contact us directly with any questions. You will be hearing from us soon with more detailed information about the upcoming activities of the study!

Email us for general information at efe.research@bc.edu

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We hope you are having a wonderful summer and look forward to continuing this exciting study with you!