

“Independent Study Programming: Best Practices for At-Risk Learners”

Introduction and Consent to Participate in Research Study

This study is designed to explore best practices in regards to Independent Study programming in Alternative Learning Programs throughout Minnesota. Participation will require approximately 30-40 minutes. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to fill out a survey that will take approximately 10-20 minutes. I would also appreciate an opportunity to follow-up the survey with a brief interview lasting approximately 20 minutes if time allows. There are no appreciable risks or benefits from participating in this study. Data collected during the course of this study will be confidential and only reviewed by the researcher and faculty project advisor. A completed returned survey will not be attached to participant. Data will be kept in a locked file and will be destroyed on or before May 5, 2011. If the results of this study are published or presented, no names will be associated with the data cited. Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will be disclosed only with your permission. Participating is voluntary and you may stop participating at any time. If you agree to participate, responding to the questions constitutes your consent. If you have any questions about this research project, contact Roxanne Paulson at RMPaulson07@winona.edu and ropaulson@rochester.k12.mn.us, my faculty project advisor Sarah Stelzner at SStelzner@winona.edu Winona State University Rochester, or the Human Protections Administrator Nancy Kay Peterson at 507-457-5519. This project has been reviewed by the WSU Institutional Review Board for the protection of human subjects.

Survey

Survey/Questionnaire

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- 1. What is your Alternative Program classified as, i.e. ALC, ALP, Contract, or other?**
- 2. Does your school/program offer Independent Study (I.S.)?**
- 3. What do you view as strengths in your I.S. program? Challenges?**
- 4. Do you perceive I.S. as a successful education tool?**
- 5. How do you evaluate the I.S. programs success?**
- 6. What criteria does your program's I.S. use?**
- 7. What is the time frame given to earn credit through I.S.?**
- 8. How is I.S. candidates screened?**
- 9. What options are available to learners that are unsuccessful with I.S.?**

- 10. What are your programs standard policies regarding attendance, participation?**
- 11. Does your program provide a class that teaches students how to be self-directed learners before enrolling into I.S.?**
- 12. What could enhance the success of your students enrolled in I.S.?**
- 13. List 3 quality indicators of the I.S. component of your program.**
- 14. Which graduation standards can be met through I.S.?**
- 15. Estimated percentage of your students enrolled in I.S.**

All correspondents should be sent to ropaulson@rochester.k12.mn.us