

February 4, 2013

Mr. Bill Emerson  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
5086 Canal Street  
Milton, FL 32570

Dear Mr. Emerson:

CNA (a non-profit research organization) in cooperation with The Florida Department of Education (FL-DOE) recently won a \$5 million competitive grant from the US Department of Education (US-DOE) to study the Florida College and Career Readiness Initiative (FCCRI). The FCCRI consists of testing to determine college-readiness in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, counseling to improve selection of senior year courses, and offering up to five college readiness and success courses to seniors. We are seeking approval to use input from Santa Rosa County teachers and administrators as part of our research.

Our study has two components:

1. Conducting a statistical analysis of the effectiveness of the FCCRI in helping students complete college courses and obtain college credentials using data provided by the FL-DOE.
2. Providing feedback that can help educators at the high school, district, and state level increase the effectiveness of the FCCRI by surveying educators and holding small group discussions at a one-day regional forum to identify impediments and ways to overcome them.

We do not require any assistance from Santa Rosa County School District in conducting the statistical analysis, as all data will be provided by FL-DOE. However, we would like to request permission for the research team to execute the following two parts of the feedback component:

- Conducting a survey of one math teacher and one language arts teacher of college readiness and success courses in 180 Florida high schools in March or April. With your permission, we would like to include the following four schools: Central School, Gulf Breeze High School, Navarre High School, and Pace High School. This will require obtaining teacher nominations from the high school principals and asking two high school teachers from each school to volunteer to complete the survey. Obtaining the nominations should not take more than an hour of the principal's time, and the web-based survey can be completed in less than one-half hour outside of the normal school day. Subject to your district's compensation policy, teachers may receive a \$10 gift card for completing the survey.
- Holding a one-day regional forum where all the teachers completing surveys will be invited to participate in small group discussions. The eight Santa Rosa teachers will be invited to attend a one-day forum tentatively scheduled in the Tallahassee area along with approximately 140 other teachers from surrounding districts in May or

June. Teachers' cost of transportation will be reimbursed and meals will be provided. Teachers may also receive a gift card up to \$40 for attending the forum. High schools will be reimbursed for the cost of substitute teachers for the day.

Teachers participating in the forums will obtain valuable information about how their experiences compare to those of teachers from similar high schools and how they can make their college readiness and success courses more effective. By the end of the summer of 2013, we plan to issue a report that describes what we learned about how the FCCRI can be made more effective in districts with different characteristics. Thus, many elements of the report should be of considerable help to teachers, high school administrators, and district administrators in Santa Rosa County striving to improve college preparation.

We hope that you will agree to participate in this important project. More information about the project can be found at: <http://ies.ed.gov/funding/grantsearch/details.asp?ID=1337> If you have any questions about the study, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Mokher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" and last name "Mokher" clearly distinguishable.

Christine Mokher, Ph.D.  
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