

Dear Principal,

Your district has agreed to participate in a newly funded study *Multiple-choice Online Cloze Comprehension Assessment (MOCCA)* supported by the US Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES). **We are writing to see if your school would be willing to participate by having students take one to two additional assessments this school year.**

There is no instructional component to the grant, but it will help us to develop a measure that will provide important information for intervening with students who struggle at comprehending what they read. In this project, we will refine and validate the MOCCA reading comprehension diagnostic assessment that measures individual differences in reading comprehension processes that take place during reading for third, fourth, and fifth grade students. **MOCCA tells us not only whether a child comprehends when reading, but also provides diagnostic information about why a child does not comprehend as well as his or her decoding and vocabulary lead us to expect.** Current comprehension assessments fail to measure comprehension at a level that enables differentiated instruction. MOCCA aims to provide teachers with actionable information about what their readers are and are not doing when processing texts.

In brief, our project goals and plans for activities during the first year of the study are as follows.

Teacher/Classroom Commitment:

1. In the fall, participating classrooms will allow access to a small number of students for pull-out assessment with a think-aloud task delivered by our trained data collectors (up to 1 class period per student).
2. In the spring, students in participating classrooms will take the MOCCA assessment on computers as a class (1 class period per class).

There is no intervention to deliver in your classroom. Project staff will share and interpret the results of the assessment with you, as well as work with staff to report on the overall project results.

Teacher/Classroom Incentives: Students who participate in any of the above activities will receive a small literacy-related gift. Teachers whose students participate in any of the above activities will receive a gift card to supplement their classroom materials.

Additional Teacher Consulting Opportunity:

We are also seeking up to four teachers from your district who would be willing to act as **consultants** by participating in our expert review panel. This work does not depend on whether or not your classroom participates. Panel members will meet in six 3-hour sessions outside of school hours and **will be compensated for their time as external consultants**. We are looking for teachers in Grades 3-5, as well as specialists in special education representative and/or cultural and linguistic diversity. The panel will review MOCCA items for validity with a focus on readability, topical suitability, and answer choice plausibility, as well as for alignment with grade level standards and cultural appropriateness.

If you are interested in participating, please contact us directly using the information below.

| Principal Investigator | Co-Principal Investigator | Project Coordinator |
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We look forward to working with you on this study and hope to hear from you as soon as possible about this exciting project.

Sincerely,
Gina Biancarosa and Sarah Carlson