
Developing Relationships Between Early-Career Teachers and Their Principals: An Intervention Scaling Dilemma

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In a recent report by the Learning Policy Institute that synthesized data from a nationally representative sample of teachers across the United States (Carver-Thomas & Darling-Hammond, 2017), lack of administrative support was listed as the second highest reason for teachers transferring to another school or leaving the profession of teaching entirely. The MTE-P Secondary Teacher Retention and Induction in Diverse Educational Settings (STRIDES) Administration sub-Research Action Cluster (RAC) is continuing their investigation on the extent that interventions involving early-career secondary mathematics teachers and their principals affects perceptions of support. Based upon data from a series of increasingly detailed surveys administered to early-career secondary mathematics teachers in MTEP institutions between 2015 and 2017, the STRIDES Administration sub-RAC implemented a pilot intervention that investigated the degree that a 10-minute meeting involving teachers and their principals had on perceptions of support. Results from this limited study showed that participating teachers reported an overall increase in perceived levels of support, relative to control participants at the same schools. Scaling to a sample set with approximately one hundred times the number of participants has presented unique challenges to the research team. This presentation outlines these challenges and encourages discussion about related methodological and practical issues.

Watch the presentation: <https://app.vidgrid.com/view/ixwmvvmJc4GN/?sr=DPyNBr>

Discussion questions:

- How do you navigate multi-site interventions, especially with IRB?
- What recruitment strategies have been successful for similar interventions?
- How do you engage 1st-year teachers in research without adding an extra layer of stress?
- What funding options might be available for this type of intervention?
- What avenues (publications/conferences/policy forums) would suit reporting of results?
- How to best administer the study under COVID-19 school conditions?