Teachers as Learners of Equitable Discussion Practices

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTool

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Project abstract:

Research has shown that leading a discussion, a key way that teachers facilitate communication in the classroom, is a lever for improving student outcomes. However, little is known about teachers as learners of discussion-leading practice including the ways in which they are able to transfer their learning to other school subjects. Additionally, some argue that teacher learning of discussion-leading practice without attention to patterns in classrooms can exacerbate inequities. Our project investigates how professional development can build elementary teachers' skill with and willingness to engage in equitable discussion-leading practice, as well as teachers' perception of which factors lead to their learning, and the transferability of this learning across subject matter teaching. The professional development includes in-person sessions with opportunities to practice teaching, video clubs where teachers share and discuss short videos of their teaching, and quarterly coaching meetings where teachers examine classroom data related to equitable teaching practice. Each of these components focuses on the daily work that teachers do when leading discussions and the specific teaching moves that teachers can use to disrupt inequitable classroom patterns. The project will collect a rich data set including video of classroom practice, teacher journals, focus group interviews, and surveys. The project will utilize established tools to track changes in teachers' skills, perceptions, and adoption of these evidence-based teaching practices. Additionally, interviews will be conducted with school leaders to better understand selection criteria for teachers' participation and the impact of selection processes and communications on teachers' perception of and participation in professional development.

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Products of research

We will gather several types of data including

- Weekly electronic journal entries, both structured and unstructured
- Focus group interview notes and audio recordings
- Electronic survey measures
- Video records of discussion leading practice including six 15-minute segments and 4 full-length discussion videos
- Practical Measures, Routines, and Representations surveys (https://www.pmr2.org/measures)
- Video of Mursion discussion-leading simulation twice per year
- Video records of coaching meetings at 4 points across the year to examine equity and discussion data,
- Video records of video-based interviews focused on challenging inequity in the classroom in the context of leading discussions
- Principal surveys focused on selection criteria used to select and their perceptions of teachers' skill
- Video records of the professional development

Data format

Products will be stored as follows:

- Video and audio files will be stored as compressed video files on a secure server
- Journal entries will be stored as XML files and PDF files
- Survey data will be stored as XML files and instrument outputs including PDF files
- Notes from focus group interviews will be stored as scanned PDF files and hard copies of any written files will be stored.

Access to data, and data sharing practices and policies

Data will be stored on a secure server system approved by the University of Michigan for sensitive data storage. Access the data will only be granted to research team members unless approval is granted for de-identified data by an IRB. The study team will use the following measures to protect research records and data against inappropriate use or disclosure, or malicious or accidental loss or destruction:

- Locked office
- Restricted access
- Restrictions on copying study related materials
- Access rights terminated when authorized users leave the project
- Secure laptop
- Individual ID plus password protection
- Routine electronic backup
- Encryption of digital data
- Security software is installed and regularly updated on all devices used on the project
- Safe disposition/destruction of data and devices as appropriate

Policies and provisions for re-use, re-distribution and production of derivatives

Due to the sensitive nature of the data, the collected data will not be available for re-use, re-distribution, and production of derivatives.

Archiving of data

For the proposed research, Meghan Shaughnessy will take the lead and responsibility for coordinating and ensuring data storage and access. However, Nicole Garcia will also be involved in managing, storing, and disseminating the results of the project. Both PIs will be responsible for checking that the plan is being followed.

Data will be archived on a secure server (mBOX) provided by the University of Michigan. The server is automatically backed up daily. Hard copies will all be digitized and stored in this way as well. We will regularly seek the guidance of the University of Michigan IT professionals regarding best practices. Data will be transferred to new storage media if we are advised to do so.