

Want to narrow achievement gaps through an hour of student time?

Join the Write to Achieve Project



Write to Achieve

The Write to Achieve Project is an opportunity for schools to use an easy, no-cost and minimal time yet high-impact approach to addressing student achievement gaps. Seventh grade students complete short, research-based writing exercises that positively affect their psychological well-being and academic achievement. Prior research from Wisconsin found that by students writing four brief essays about things that they value most, racial achievement gaps were narrowed as minority students demonstrated

- Higher GPAs through high school
- Fewer Ds and Fs in middle and high school
- Higher standardized test scores
- Fewer disciplinary referrals
- Higher attendance

Our team at the American Institutes for Research is conducting further research to explore the impacts of the Write to Achieve Project in schools like yours across the country. We are inviting you to join us to better understand where and when the writing exercises have the greatest benefits for students.

Participation is Easy

Participation in the study is simple for schools and engaging for students. Schools will administer four 15-minute writing exercises to their seventh-grade students during the 2019–20 and 2020–21 school years. Students are asked to reflect on and write about values, such as family, friends, music, or sports. Schools can easily implement the exercises themselves: no teacher training is required and there are no costs for schools.

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What does participation look like?

To start up, teachers will be invited to an optional webinar lasting approximately 30 minutes. The study team will review with teachers how to implement the writing exercises and answer any questions. The study will deliver the writing exercise materials bundled for each class to make administration as easy as possible.

What data are collected?

Study data collection is minimal. Schools will send the completed excises to the study team. Grade 7 students will complete a survey at the beginning of the school year and again during the final semesters of seventh and eighth grades. The study team also will request administrative records as students progress through ninth grade to examine student academic performance, attendance and disciplinary information.

What's the benefit in participating?

Your participation in this study will build important knowledge about the impacts of a brief writing intervention on school performance and closing achievement gaps across diverse school settings.

After 2 years of study, we will work with each school to support the ongoing use of the writing exercises with seventh graders as routine practice. In addition, participating schools and districts will be offered a small stipend as a measure of thanks from the research team and to defray the costs of the administrative data collection.

Study Timeline	2019-20 SY		2020-21 SY		2021-22 SY	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Implementation of Writing Exercises:						
Grade 7 writing exercises implemented	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •
Data Collection:						
Grade 7 student survey administration	•	•	•	•		
Grade 8 student survey administration				•		•
Study collects administrative records	•	•	•	•		•



How do we get involved?

For more information, contact the Write to Achieve Project.

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