

Department Chair Interview

School _____ Principal _____

Interviewer _____ Date _____

Begin interview by introducing yourself and making a positive comment about the school/teacher/students.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me. The information you share will provide insight into how mathematics/science is being taught in schools throughout the country. This research is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and is being conducted through the University of Minnesota. Your responses to the questions will remain confidential. The interview will take approximately 45 minutes. Do you have any questions?

Demographics

The first several questions will help us learn more about your department.

1. How many teachers are in your department?
 - a. Number of females
 - b. Number of males
2. What is the range of years of teaching?
3. What is the average number of years of teaching?
4. What courses are taught?

School Environment

5. Do teachers in your department meet regularly?

If no: proceed to question 3

If yes:

 - a. How often do teachers in your department meet in typical week?
 - b. Are these meetings a planned part of your schedule?
 - c. How often do teachers meet outside of the time that they are required to be at school?

Revised 2/11

9. Please describe the relationships among people at this school.

a. Do teachers in different departments work together?

b. Do students respect one another?

c. Do students respect staff?

d. Do teachers and administrators work cooperatively?

Perceptions

10. Please describe any changes that have been made in the past five years to improve mathematics/science education in your school, district and state. What impact, if any, have they had on instruction? On your students' learning/achievement? (Probes: what effects have changes had on instruction? On students? On achievement? On attitudes? On teachers?)

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11. Does your science/mathematics department follow any national/state, and/or district standards or guidelines?

a. Please describe where the standards come from and how they relate to national standards.

12. Have standards had an impact on the teaching at your school? If so, please describe the impact of standards on the teaching.

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me.