

Prapanna Smith, a researcher/graduate student at California State University San Marcos is conducting a study on how schools create learning environments that impact students' attitudes towards life. You are invited to participate in this study because you are a teacher or administrator in a unique school that embraces an innovative approach to education.

This study has two objectives:

1. To better understand the relationships between your experiences in school and your students' attitudes and beliefs about their lives.
2. To learn about the ways that your school helps your students prepare for life.

Participation in this study will involve taking an on-line written response questionnaire. It should take about 15 minutes to complete. Please understand that there are no right or wrong answers to the questions.

Following your response to the questionnaire you may be invited to participate in a follow-up focus group interview process. The conversational style interview will take approximately one-and-a-half to two hours and, with your permission, will be audio and/or videotaped. The interviews will take place in a private conference room located in your school campus. Focus group participants will be selected so that a balanced mix of grade/standard level and subject area teachers are involved. Participants will be notified by email whether they are to be invited to participate in the interview or not.. Participants invited for the interview may choose whether to participate and may drop out at any time after they have agreed to participate.

It is completely optional for you to complete the questionnaire. You are in no way required to take it. Even if you start taking the questionnaire you may opt out at anytime by simply clicking on the "Exit this survey" link at the top of any page. All incomplete questionnaires will be deleted. The questionnaire can be accessed from any computer via the Internet at the following link:

<http://www.IntegralElementary.com/questionnaire.html>

Some teachers and administrators may feel uncomfortable providing honest responses to some of the questions on the questionnaire. **Rest assured that your responses to the questionnaire will be held in strict confidence.** The actual responses to the questionnaire will be accessed only by the researcher, and his faculty advisor, and the contents will remain in the researcher's sole possession. The analysis and reporting of the results will not identify participants by name.

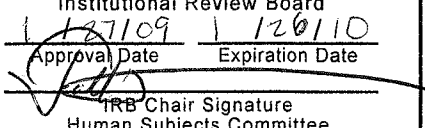
There may be a direct benefit to participant teachers and administrators from the schools studied in that review of the final dissertation findings may help them to gain insights into how they are helping to inspire their students to achieve great things in their lives.

Participation is voluntary. You do not have to participate in this study if you do not want to. If you choose not to participate, it will not impact your status as an employee in your school in any way.

You should know that the Cal State San Marcos Institutional Review Board (IRB) may inspect study records as part of its auditing program, but these reviews only focus on the researchers and the study, not on your responses or involvement. The IRB is a committee that reviews research studies to make sure that they are safe and that the rights of the participants are protected.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact our Institutional Review Board at 1-760-750-4029. If you have questions about this research please contact either the faculty advisor, Dr. Jennifer Jeffries, at 1-760-750-8510 or researcher via phone or email. A digital copy of the final study will be made available to your school and to all study participants upon its completion.

Prapanna Smith
prapanna@integratededucation.org
1-858-204-2096

Cal State San Marcos Institutional Review Board	
<u>1/27/09</u>	<u>1/20/10</u>
Approval Date	Expiration Date
	
IRB Chair Signature Human Subjects Committee	