

Application for Educational Research Project Approval

Submitted pursuant to Board Policy 9550 – Educational Research Projects

Date of Submission: May 20, 2026

1. Executive Summary

Curriculum Associates respectfully requests approval to conduct a school visit at Three Bridges School, Readington Township, NJ. This visit is part of ongoing user experience research aimed at understanding how educators engage with i-Ready data reports during instructional planning and day-to-day practice. Insights gathered will be used exclusively to improve i-Ready's reports for the benefit of educators nationwide.

This study involves the participation of educators. No students will be asked to provide feedback or will be observed in classroom environments. Educator participation is entirely voluntary, and the visit schedule will be designed in collaboration with school leadership.

2. Research Purpose and Objectives

The i-Ready reports team at Curriculum Associates is conducting user research to understand the “real-life” use of data and the Diagnostic reports during planning and instruction. The goals are to:

- Understand how and when educators interact with the i-Ready reports, specifically in the Can Do's and Next Steps in the Student Diagnostic reports and the Standards Performance Report
- Identify pain points and unmet needs related to usage of the Diagnostic reports and the Standards Performance report
- Gather feedback that will help improve the design and functionality of the i-Ready reports

Findings from this research will directly inform product improvements that support educators across all schools and districts using the i-Ready reports.

3. Study Design and Methods

The site visit will include the following activities, depending on the schedule of the school staff:

1:1 Educator Conversations

- **Format:** Individual or small-group, in-classroom conversations with participating educators.
- **Duration:** Approximately 30–60 minutes per educator, depending on staff schedules.
- **Method:** Educators will walk through how they use the i-Ready reports, particularly the Can Do's and Next Steps in the Student Diagnostic reports and the Standards Performance Report, during planning and instruction.
- **Target participants:** A minimum of 4 educators; additional participants are welcome.
- **Data collection:** Written notes will be taken during all sessions. No audio or video recordings will be made.

PLC and Data Collaborative Session Observations

The i-Ready team will observe a CPT session and a data-focused faculty meeting to understand how teachers use data and the i-Ready reports collaboratively with other teachers.

Written notes will be taken during all sessions. No audio or video recordings will be made.

4. Study Participants

This study involves educators only. No students will participate in or be observed by any research activity. No student records, data, or personally identifiable information will be collected at any time.

Educator participation is entirely voluntary. Any educator may decline to participate or withdraw at any time without consequence.

5. Research Team and Affiliations

All research will be conducted by employees of Curriculum Associates, LLC (CA), the publisher of i-Ready. A maximum of four (4) representatives will visit at one time, representing the User Research, Design, and Product teams:

- Ma. Victoria (Mia) Almeda, Senior User Researcher, Curriculum Associates
- Jessica Fronczak, Senior Technical Product Manager I, Curriculum Associates
- Liwei Zhang, Senior Designer, Curriculum Associates
- Cara Christ, Director of Platform, Curriculum Associates (*potential participant*)

Contact for questions regarding this application:

Name: Ma. Victoria Almeda (Mia)

Title: Senior User Researcher

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6. Estimated Duration and Timeline

Curriculum Associates requests to conduct the site visit on June 10, 2026, Wednesday. We are flexible on scheduling and will coordinate dates, times, and the number of sessions around what works best for the school and participating educators.

Proposed Schedule for the On-site Visit (school leadership will finalize the schedule):

Time	Activity
8:25 – 8:50 am	CA members check in with Jodi Rehrig at the front of the school; Brief hello/orientation with Kristen Higgins
8:50 – 9:50 am <i>*Kinder</i>	Teacher interviews (it could be 1:1 or 2:1 from the same grade in K-3)
9:50 – 10:50 am <i>*1st Grade</i>	Teacher interviews (it could be 1:1 or 2:1 from the same grade in K-3)

10:50 – 11:50 am	Interview with Kristen Higgins and Lunch
12:00 – 1:00 pm <i>*2nd grade</i>	Teacher interviews (it could be 1:1 or 2:1 from the same grade, either in K-3)
1:00 – 2:00 pm <i>*3rd grade</i>	Teacher Interviews (it could be 1:1 or 2:1 from the same grade in K-3)
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	CA team will be observing a CPT session
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	CA team will be observing a faculty session

*Grade levels are examples only. Actual grades will depend on staff availability and schedules.

Duration for teacher interviews: 30–60 minutes, depending on teacher schedules

Total on-site time: Approximately one full school day, depending on the number of educators interested in participating.

7. Anticipated Benefits

Benefits to participating educators and the school district include:

- Direct influence on improvements of the i-Ready reports that will benefit educators and students at this school and nationwide.
- An opportunity for educators to have their voices heard in the design of the reports they use daily.
- A gift card provided to each participating educator as a thank-you for their time, where district policy permits.

There are no known risks or costs to the school, district, or educators associated with participation. Some educators may feel uncomfortable sharing their experiences related to student data reports. Participation in this research is fully voluntary and educators may discontinue participation at any time. The study is designed to be minimally disruptive and will be conducted in alignment with normal school operations and routines.

8. Privacy and Confidentiality

As this study involves only educators and no students, no student personally identifiable information (PII) or protected pupil records will be collected. The following safeguards will be maintained throughout:

- Observation notes will be stored securely within Curriculum Associates' internal systems and shared only with internal teams.
- Any quotations or observations shared in internal reports will be de-identified or anonymized.
- Observation notes will not be shared publicly or used for any purpose other than improving i-Ready reports and products.

9. Non-Disruption to the Instructional Program

Curriculum Associates is committed to ensuring that this research visit does not impede or disrupt the instructional program. All sessions will be scheduled at the convenience of the school. Researchers will work

within available windows, such as non-instructional time, as agreed upon with school leadership. The research will follow all school and district protocols while on site.