



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## ABOUT THE SRSD RESEARCH STUDY

This document provides an overview of commonly asked questions about what it means to participate in a research study with the American Institutes for Research® (AIR). The organization would welcome an opportunity to speak with you about follow-up questions that you have.

Please reach out to [SRSDresearch@air.org](mailto:SRSDresearch@air.org) if you have questions.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH® (AIR)?

AIR is a non-profit research organization partnering with Providence College, SRSD Online, and the National Writing Project to conduct an evaluation of Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD). This study is funded by a federal grant from the US Department of Education. AIR will serve as the independent evaluator of SRSD.

### WHAT IS A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL (RCT)?

A RCT is a way of doing impact evaluation in which two groups from an eligible population are assigned at random to either receive the program or policy intervention or to a business-as-usual control condition. It tests the extent to which specific, planned impacts are being achieved. In this study, we will use a phased RCT. One grade band (either Grades 1-2 or Grades 3-5) within each school will be randomly assigned to participate in the first year. The entire school will participate in the second year.

### WHAT DATA WILL BE COLLECTED AND WHAT IS THE DATA COLLECTION TIMING FOR 2024-25?

The data to be collected and timing is shown in the table below. Data collection activities include student writing assignments in response to prompts provided by AIR, a student survey about their attitude towards writing, teacher and Facilitator surveys about teaching writing and implementation of SRSD, recorded classroom observations to capture the classroom learning environment (in a selection of classrooms), and interviews and focus groups with select teachers and administrators. Student and teacher data and classroom observations will be collected in fall and spring of the 2024-25 school year. Teachers and Facilitators may be invited to participate in focus groups and/or interviews. If selected to participate in a focus group or interview, participation will be requested towards the end of the spring semester. Lastly, student achievement and demographic data requests to the district will be sent in late summer or early in fall 2025.

DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
Student writing assignments in response to given prompts	Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
Student surveys about attitudes towards writing	Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
Teacher and Facilitator surveys about teaching writing and SRSD implementation	Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
Teacher and Facilitators focus groups/interviews, if selected.	Spring 2025
Video-recorded classroom observations, if selected.	Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
Request district administrative data (e.g., student achievement and student demographic)	Summer/Fall 2025

*More details will be provided in a Teacher Data Collection Manual.*

## HOW WILL STUDENT AND TEACHER DATA BE PROTECTED?

Students' and teachers' privacy is extremely important to us. Because of this, we do several things to make sure that the data we collect stays private. Each participant will receive a unique ID number to store the data we collect. The file connecting the ID numbers to participants' names is stored in a safe location separate from the study data. It is only accessible to the research team. Participants' identities will not be linked to any of the data. Study reports will present findings that summarize results across groups of participants. We will not reveal the identity of any participating teacher, Facilitator, or student when reporting results.

## HOW WILL THE FINDINGS BE REPORTED?

We will provide a summary of the findings to participating schools at the end of each year in the following fall. Your partnership will inform the field of elementary literacy education on how to best teach students to write. It will also help identify the best ways to implement effective writing instruction schoolwide. Without identifying your school or district, we will share the findings in journal articles, research, and education conferences, and in webinars. We will share more information on these opportunities in the future.

## WHO WILL RECEIVE DATA COLLECTION INCENTIVES?

For your support in collecting research data, incentives will be provided to data collection coordinators (DCCs) and participating teachers. DCCs will receive an incentive of \$1,100 for the school year. Teachers will also receive incentives of up to \$200 in gift cards for participating in data collection. Incentives will be distributed at the end of the school year.

## CONTACT US:

If you have any general questions, you can contact the AIR Research Team to the project's



[SRSDresearch@air.org](mailto:SRSDresearch@air.org)



844-849-5251

For more specific questions, you can contact Juliette Berg, Co-Principal Investigator, with any questions or concerns about AIR's evaluation of SRSD by emailing [jberg@air.org](mailto:jberg@air.org)