



# Student Engagement in Math Blended Learning Study

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Student Engagement in Math Blended Learning Study?

The study is a research project being conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The project focuses on student engagement and learning in a math-focused, blended learning environment called **LearnBop** ([www.learnbop.com](http://www.learnbop.com)).

### How does LearnBop support math teaching and learning?

LearnBop is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Please contact the research team (see bottom of next page) to learn more about the alignment between LearnBop content and your state's learning standards.

LearnBop has a large repository of questions and skills aligned with learning standards for kindergarten-level math through Algebra II. One advantage of LearnBop is that if a student needs help on a skill that should have been mastered previously, teachers can assign problems from the LearnBop repository to individualize learning.

### Which teachers can participate?

This 1-year study is open to all math teachers in Grades 6–8 in your district that are interested in participating.

### Do participating teachers have to use LearnBop for every lesson?

No! LearnBop is designed for supplemental instruction. Teachers that join the study agree to use LearnBop regularly with their students during class—about 60 minutes every 2 weeks on average. There may be weeks when using LearnBop does not fit with a teacher's instructional goals. When that happens, teachers will contact members of the research team to let them know.

### We're not a 1:1 district. Can we still participate in the study?

Yes! LearnBop is a web-based learning tool. The only requirement is that teachers must be able to provide students with computer access during the lessons that include LearnBop as part of the instruction.

## What research activities would our teachers participate in?

Teachers who participate in the study will

- Use LearnBop in class with their students for an average of 60 minutes every 2 weeks during the 2019–20 school year,
- Work with researchers to find convenient times for up to three classroom observations and allow researchers to unobtrusively observe classes,
- Take a survey at the end of spring 2020,
- Administer a math quiz (30–45 minutes) to their students at the end of spring 2020.

Teachers are busy, so the study has been designed to impose minimal burden. Teachers may earn a \$300 stipend for supporting study activities.

## Will teachers receive training and support to use LearnBop?

Yes! Teachers will participate in an initial webinar training session led by technical and implementation experts. The technical expert will introduce the system, guide teachers through its different components, and address questions and concerns. The implementation expert will suggest methods for incorporating LearnBop into the classroom. The webinar will last about 1 hour and will include additional (optional) time for questions. Both experts will also be available by phone or e-mail to teachers throughout the project to answer questions about LearnBop.

## Does this study collect data about students?

The study team from AIR will enter into a data-sharing agreement—which is compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974—to collect data, such as demographic characteristics and state standardized test scores, for the study from students' records. Students will also complete a math quiz at the end of the school year. The study team will use these data to better understand the connection between student engagement and learning and to account for student differences in statistical models. AIR takes data security very seriously and uses only secure, encrypted transfer services to transfer anonymized student data.

## How can I learn more about the study?

To learn more about the study, please visit our website ([www.air.org/math-engagement-study](http://www.air.org/math-engagement-study)) or contact **Dr. Peggy Clements** ([pclements@air.org](mailto:pclements@air.org), 202-403-5623). You can also send us an email at [MathEngagementStudy@air.org](mailto:MathEngagementStudy@air.org).