



quick facts

about the CCEJP UNIT STORYLINE field-test evaluation

What is the purpose of the study? The evaluation of the Climate Change and Environmental Justice Program (CCEJP) Field Test serves to determine the degree to which the Unit Storyline curriculum meets the CCEJP criteria and the degree to which teachers felt adequately prepared to facilitate the unit.

It will provide important information to Ten Strands and the curriculum writing teams about the effectiveness of the curriculum, supporting materials, and teacher training.

Results of the evaluation will not be publicly released but will be used by Ten Strands and the San Mateo County Office of Education to determine the curriculum's readiness for adoption by the State of California.

Who is conducting this study? RTI International, under contract to Ten Strands, is a research institute based in North Carolina with international and U.S. regional offices, including Berkeley, California. Their evaluation team, led by Dr. Jay Feldman (jayfeldman@rti.org), is overseeing the evaluation in coordination with Ten Strands and the individual writing teams for each of the grade-level units. Any questions about the study can be directed to Dr. Feldman or Elisabeth Hensley, MPP (ehensley@rti.org).

How were schools/teachers selected to participate? Any California teacher responsible for teaching about science or environmental justice as part of their regular teaching assignment in a traditional public or independent school can volunteer to participate in the field test. The writing team for each grade level is selecting up to ten teachers to participate in the Field Test study. One of the goals of the field test is to ensure that the curriculum will be relevant to all California students, regardless of their location in the state; therefore, the teams are looking to select teachers from a variety of locations and region types within the state.

How do teachers commit to participation in the field test? There are two aspects to field test participation: 1) teaching the Unit Storyline (approximately 15 hours of in-class instruction) to at least one classroom of students before the end of the 2024 school year, and 2) participating in the field test evaluation.

Individual writing teams will ask field test participants to sign a participation agreement indicating their commitment to participate in training and to teach the full Unit Storyline with fidelity. In addition, participants will be asked to review and sign a **consent form**, indicating their willingness to participate in evaluation data collection activities associated with the field test. Best practice in evaluation is to ask participants for their consent to have their data collected separate from participating in the activity itself. Consent to participate in evaluation activities is entirely optional and consent can be withdrawn at any time. Therefore, the participation agreement and the consent to participate in evaluation are not the same and are two separate documents.

What do teachers get for participating? Teachers will receive a stipend from the organization who recruited them, compensating teachers for their time spent outside the regular school day on activities related to the field test, including the field test study.

How much time does study participation require? Beyond the time it takes to train, prepare, and teach the Unit Storyline, participating in the field test study is expected to take an additional 3-5 hours. All participating teachers will be asked to complete the following:

- Post-Training Survey – 15 minutes
- Post-Lesson Surveys – 75 minutes total (5 surveys of about 15 minutes each)
- Prepping/uploading student work samples – 60-75 minutes

In addition, a subset of selected field test participants will be asked to participate in one or both of the following:

- Pulse Surveys – 75 minutes total (15 pulse surveys of about 5 minutes each)
- Post-Unit Focus Group -- 75 minutes

What does participation require from school and/or district leaders? District and school leaders should do the following to determine if any of their teachers can participate in and provide data for the field test study:

- Review the information about CCEJP, including the letter of agreement;
- Have the site and district leaders who are authorized to grant permission for teachers to participate in a curriculum field test sign and return the relevant letter of agreement to RTI International;
- Allow teachers to be recruited for the 2023-24 field test and participate in training and evaluation activities (outside of the regular school day);
- Allow teachers to implement the entire Unit Storyline in their classroom, starting in March-April, 2024;
- Allow teachers to electronically submit anonymized samples of student work to the evaluation team at RTI International.

Teachers who are interested in participating but don't know if their school or district has already provided approval can coordinate with the curriculum team writing for that grade level to ensure that approval has been secured or is in process. If a teacher is not in contact with a curriculum writing team, they can contact Elisabeth Hensley (ehensley@rti.org or 510-665-8294).

How will data be handled and student confidentiality be protected? In order to ensure privacy, RTI International will access and maintain individual teacher records and student work samples in compliance with state and federal privacy laws as well as widely accepted ethical standards for human-subjects research. No names of students, schools, or districts will be published in connection with the study.

Once a participating teacher has provided a consent form and there is documented school/district approval, the evaluation team will assign that teacher a study ID to be used throughout their participation in the field test evaluation. The teacher will provide just this ID whenever they take surveys, submit student work samples, or participate in online focus groups. Data collected for the evaluation will not be associated with individual teacher names or their school.

Only identified project personnel and data administrators will have access to the de-identified data, and all data files will be destroyed within three years from the close of the project.

Where can we direct further questions about the study? RTI is happy to address your questions and concerns about the study. You may direct email inquiries to Dr. Jay Feldman, Principal Investigator, at jayfeldman@rti.org or to Elisabeth Hensley, Co-Project Director, at ehensley@rti.org or by phone at 510-665-8294.