



Sachem Central School District at Holbrook

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PEP Grant Random Sample Description:

Often times it is not possible to collect data from every student in a district. This might be because there are a very large number of students or that not enough devices (for example, pedometers) are available for everyone to use at the same time. There are some steps that must be followed so that the sample can be used to represent the entire group. The most important step is to make sure that the students of the sample are randomly selected from the entire group and that every student has an equal chance of being selected. Special formulas have been created that dictate how many students need to be in the sample. These formulas use information such as the total number of students in the entire group and how confident the sample represents the entire group. The goal is to be 95% confident.

Here is how a sample will be collected:

1. All student names from the entire group are placed in one long list
2. Each student is assigned a number from 1 through the total number of students
3. A software program is used to tell us how many students to select
4. A software program is used to produce a list of randomly generated numbers
5. Students are picked from the master list that correspond to the randomly generated numbers
6. Selected students are asked if they want to participate and if so parental consent is requested
7. Students in the sample are given instructions in how to wear the pedometers, fill out logs, etc.
8. Data is collected from the sample and analyzed

There are five data collection time periods during the school year. Each data collection time period lasts one week. Each data collection period will call for a new random sample to be generated.

Thank you,

Sachem PEP Grant Team