



Southern  
California Math  
School Teachers

Earn up to \$900 participating in an eight-week online professional development study focused on learning and teaching linear functions.

### Video in the Middle

- A set of online professional development modules focused on algebra for secondary grades
- Based on the *Learning and Teaching Linear Functions (LTLF)* PD materials developed by WestEd
- Seeking 100 Southern California secondary math teachers interested in testing the modules & providing feedback
- February & March 2020

### Participants Receive:

- ◆ 13-15 hours of online professional development in secondary algebra topics
- ◆ Up to \$900 stipend

### About our Agency

WestEd is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research, development, and service agency that works with education and other communities throughout the US and abroad to promote excellence, achieve equity, and improve learning for children, youth, and adults. WestEd has more than a dozen offices nationwide, with headquarters in San Francisco. More information about WestEd is available at [WestEd.org](http://WestEd.org).

## Participation

For more information about how you or your colleagues can participate in the Video in the Middle Study, contact:

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[vim@wested.org](mailto:vim@wested.org)

# Video in the Middle: Information for Secondary Math Teachers

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WestEd, a nonprofit educational research agency, has been funded by the National Science Foundation to create and test a collection of online modules (“Video in the Middle”) focusing on algebra for secondary grades based on the Learning and Teaching Linear Functions (LTLF) professional development materials.

The Video in the Middle (VIM) modules place a video clip at the center of a professional learning experience as teachers take part in an online experience of mathematical problem solving, video analysis of classroom practice, and pedagogical reflection. The purpose of this randomized control study is to understand and provide feedback on how teachers and teacher leaders use the VIM modules for their own professional learning, and to understand the impact of the modules on teachers’ professional learning as well as students’ mathematics learning.

The Randomized Control Trial study will last about eight weeks (February and March 2020). All participants will use four VIM modules using a Canvas platform. Each module is about 2 hours of work. Once a pool of volunteers is identified, participants will be assigned to one of three conditions:

- **Individual users** will use the VIM modules at their own pace.
- **Locally-facilitated groups** will work with colleagues, interacting asynchronously in the online environment and commenting on each other’s work while completing the VIM modules.
- **WestEd-facilitated groups** will be use the VIM modules with colleagues, interacting asynchronously in the online environment and commenting on each other’s work, with a WestEd staff member facilitating the group’s engagement.

**Qualifications.** Participants must teach mathematics in a California public middle or high school. Other teachers have been offered the opportunity to participate in this study. All applicants will receive email notification about their participation.

**Study Activities:** Over the course of the eight-week study, participants agree to:

- Complete the Artifact Analysis before and after completing VIM modules (one hour each)
- Introduce the study to students, hand out a parent/guardian opt-out form, collect any signed forms from students, and return them to WestEd (about 1 hour)
- Complete 4 VIM modules (about 2 hours each)
- Complete 8 weekly teacher logs (about 10 minutes per week)
- If selected, participate in a classroom observation and pre/post-observation interview with a WestEd researcher (Observations and interviews will be audio recorded to assist with transcription and analysis, and will be deleted afterward.) (1.5 hours)



The study involves about 13-15 hours of work in all.

**Compensation.** Participants in all three conditions will receive a stipend of \$700, paid upon completion of the first four study requirements as described above. The stipend will be prorated if some research activities are completed but not others. Teachers selected for a classroom observation and interview will receive an additional \$200.

**Participation is voluntary.** Whether or not you choose to take part in the study will have no bearing on your standing or employment at your school. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time, without penalty.

**All information is confidential.** All data collected regarding you will be kept confidential by assigning anonymous identification numbers/labels. The information will be used for research purposes only, and your personal identification will not appear in the data researchers analyze or in any reports on the study outcomes. Identifying information is collected to link data across time and will be stored separately from the data in a secure online database, locked electronic files, or will be kept secure at WestEd in a locked file cabinet. The researchers are interested in how teachers engage with the VIM modules and how they work in the three different conditions (individual, WestEd facilitated, locally facilitated). This project is not evaluating you or your teaching.

**Risks/benefits.** There are no foreseeable risks of physical, psychological, or social harm to you from this study, nor are there foreseeable benefits beyond the compensation and training listed below. Your participation will help gauge the efficacy of the VIM modules for teacher and student learning.

**Questions.** If you have questions about this study, you may call Angela Knotts at 877-493-7833 x6408 or by email: [aknotts@wested.org](mailto:aknotts@wested.org). If you have questions or concerns regarding your rights as a research participant, you may contact the WestEd Institutional Review Board at 877-493-7833 x3202 or [subjects@wested.org](mailto:subjects@wested.org).