



November 15, 2022

Hello,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a research study being conducted at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Michigan State University, Franciscan University, and Catawba College. The purpose of the study is to examine the experiences of **paraeducators** (e.g., teacher assistants, paraprofessionals, classroom assistants) in relation to **addressing challenging** behavior among students who receive special education services.

In this study, you will be asked to complete an anonymous, online survey to provide information about paraeducator experiences addressing challenging behavior and training opportunities for paraeducators that focus on challenging behavior. The survey should take no more than 20-30 minutes to complete.

You also will have an opportunity to participate in a follow-up interview to answer additional questions about paraeducator experiences addressing challenging behavior. The interview will take place with the researcher over video conferencing technology and will last approximately 30-45 minutes. Your responses will be audio recorded (not video recorded). You will have an opportunity to enter into a drawing for a **\$50 Amazon e-gift card** for participating in the interview.

Please note that participation in the follow-up interview is completely voluntary; you can participate in the survey without participating in the interview.

If you are a **school administrator**, please complete the questionnaire found at the link below and then forward this email to (a) special education teachers and general education teachers at your school who supervise paraeducators and (b) paraeducators who currently support students who receive special education services at your school.

If you are a **general or special education teacher** or **paraeducator**, please access the link below to complete the questionnaire.

You can access the online questions at the following link:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6uisWoCkeO5GibA

Should you have any questions, please contact me either by email (virginia.walker@uncc.edu) or cell phone (404-542-6393).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Virginia L. Walker, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Associate Professor
Department of Special Education and Child Development
University of North Carolina at Charlotte