



Mary Siegrist, Consultant

June 17, 2013

Board of Education
Weld County School District 6
1025 9th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631

Dear Member of the Board of Education:

This letter is to provide confirmation of the data and the analysis processed shared with you in the report entitled: Community Engagement.

The data has strong reliability and validity due to the variety of the participants in age, gender, residence location, ethnicity, and association with District 6. In addition the data was collected through numerous meetings held at many different locations around District 6, which further strengthens the validity that the sample size represents the population that encompasses District 6.

The sample size of 528 participants far exceeded the recommended sample size of 30 and the saturation rule. To further strengthen the data's validity, the individual meetings also had over 30 participants. There are two general rules that are used by researchers to ensure the sample size is sufficient for a qualitative study. The first is an N of 30 respondents is a reasonable starting point but when the N increases it reduces the probability of missing a perception. However, there is also a point of diminishing return on respondents' perception. The second rule, saturation, addresses diminishing return. Saturation occurs when the collection of new data does not shed any further light on the issue under investigation. This study's results demonstrated reoccurring comments from multiple participants at each of the meeting locations.

The purposeful sampling technique used for this study is a rarely used for this type of study; however it is the correct sampling technique. Purposeful sampling technique actively selects the most productive sample to answer the questions of interest and is not commonly used in qualitative studies. What is typically used is random sampling technique; however it is not the most effective way of developing an understanding of complex issues relating to human behavior and weakens the validity of a study.

The processes used to analyze the data took into account every single response. No responses were eliminated from the analysis. There was no missing data that had to be addressed. All of the participants responded to all four questions on the survey. This is a rare occurrence in qualitative and quantitative studies.

The analysis was conducted independent of District 6 officials. The administration was extremely cooperative in providing the data and in providing guidance regarding the future uses of the data, but no one attempted to influence the outcome.

The Board of Education is to be commended on the excellent collection of data for this study. I commend them for not only the excellence of the factual data collected but also listening to the opinions expressed by the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Siegrist". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mary E. Siegrist