



Middle Level Education Research SIG National Middle Grades Research Project (NMGRP)

YOU ARE INVITED to join **AN EXCITING, CHALLENGING, & TIMELY PROJECT**. The MLER SIG is developing a national middle grades research project.

What is the NMGRP?

Access the MLER SIG website (<http://www.rmle.pdx.edu/>) and look for the National Middle Grades Research Project (NMGRP) on the menu. Information regarding **Project Development** is outlined as follows:

- **White Paper**: Contains the Proposal for Establishing a National Middle Level Research Project. Very detailed, with references to support the proposal.
- **Steering Committee**: Contains short bios on the 10 members of the Steering Committee for the NMGRP.
- **Chicago 2006 Planning Session**: Synopsis of work accomplished by seven members of the Steering Committee.
- **Nashville 2006 Planning Session**: Synopsis concludes with summary of what the Steering Committee members agreed to regarding the project. Specifically, multiple methods would be encouraged, longitudinal design, national in scope, data are co-owned, and professional development would be provided to participant researchers.
- **Chicago/AERA 2007 Planning Session**: Identifies the two directions of the NMGRP: (a) an empirical study of Common Planning Time, and (b) a theoretical study to explore the overarching theories that have guided middle grades research.

What is the project on Common Planning Time (CPT)?

Access <http://www.rmle.pdx.edu/> as follows:

- **CPT Project Overview**: Covers major aspects of this research project and offers a timeline of activities.
- **CPT Key Research Findings**: Includes research related to the impact of CPT and documents the positive effects of providing interdisciplinary team of teachers with common planning time.
- **Chicago 2007 Planning Session**: Four members of the Steering Committee met to develop the protocols (interview and observation checklist) and identify “next steps” in the project. Five research questions were formulated to guide the analyses of data in the national database; researchers who join this project can establish their own additional research questions.

How do I get involved in the CPT project?

- Kathy Roney is serving as Project Coordinator. Send her your contact information at roneyk@uncw.edu
- ATTEND the workshop for CPT participant researchers to be held during AERA/New York: **Monday, March 24th, 8 am – 12 pm in room 506 (5th floor) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Times Square**. You will...
 - receive the protocols for data collection (interview protocol & observation protocol), a researcher’s field manual, and a draft IRB template
 - engage in professional development for use of protocols
 - be given a draft review of research literature on CPT
 - receive information regarding publication opportunities, e.g., *Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education*