

Get Focused, Stay Focused (GFSF) Program Evaluation Randomization FAQ

Why Randomize?

The only way to measure the impact of a program is to compare program participants with an equivalent group of non-participants. The GFSF Program Evaluation will use the most rigorous evaluation design—random assignment—to create two equivalent groups, a treatment group that participates in the program and a control group that does not. This technique insures that any differences in student outcomes after participating in the program can be attributed to the program itself.

What to Randomize?

The GFSF Program Evaluation will employ the method of random assignment by randomly assigning participating schools to the treatment group or control group through a school lottery.

How to Randomize Schools?

To randomize schools, participating schools simply enter the school lottery. They will then be selected to either start the program in year 1 (2016-17) or year 2 (2017-18). When they start the program all 9th graders participate.

When will the Lottery Take Plan?

Implementation planning is an important part of the GFSF program. Therefore schools need to know early if they are going to be implementing the following Fall. Therefore it is projected that the lottery will take place by the end of January 2017.

What are the benefits for schools participating in the project?

[View more information on the benefits](#)

What if our school is not chosen in the lottery?

Schools not chosen have an important part in the evaluation. They are the control group. The data from their students in 2016 – 17 will be compared with the students who receive the GFSF program. A stipend will be paid for the assistance required to collect the control data.

The staff of the GFSF center will actively participate in securing funding so those schools can go into full implementation beginning the Fall 2017. The goal would be that they have the same financial benefits and support as first year implementing schools.