



STEP 1: PREP

Set a date to shadow.

Set a learning goal. Creating a learning goal will help focus your planning for shadowing a student.

EXAMPLES OF PAST LEARNING GOALS

Student engagement: "I want to shadow a quiet student who may go under the radar and get lost in the shuffle."

College and career readiness: "I want to see what we are doing to prepare our young men for graduation and their futures compared to other students."

English Learners: "I want to see if English Learners are getting opportunities they want, not just what we think they need."

Select a student. Your learning experience will depend a lot on the student you shadow. You may want to consider the student's year in school, academic performance, socioeconomic status, personality and passions. Be sure to select a student who attends the school or district in which you currently work.

Get permission to shadow your selected student. [See the sample permission slip included below.](#)



STEP 2: SHADOW

The purpose of shadowing a student for a ½ or full day of school is **not** to observe classes, but to immerse yourself in a student's experience. Try to do everything your student does without judgement.

You don't need to take observation notes. Just stay open to noticing what your student's experiencing. The following questions might help you gain insights as you shadow your student.

- What's surprising me?
- What's delighting me?
- What's troubling me?
- What's provoking new questions for me?

STEP 3: Reflect

Complete the [2019 Summer Institute Application](#) and share:

- 1 powerful new insight you gained by shadowing a student at your school/district
- 1 question that shadowing a student at your school/district provoked.

Date _____



Shadow a Student Permission Slip

Dear _____,

I am part of a team of educators from our district currently applying to participate in the Sonoma County Office of Education's 2019 Summer Institute. To complete our application, each teacher and administrator must shadow a student through a ½ or full day of school. Our goal is to improve the student experience at our school by better understanding a typical school day from a student's perspective.

I would like permission to shadow _____ for a full or ½ day of school on a day in April, 2019.

If you're interested in learning more about how shadowing students is improving the school experience across our country, visit the Shadow a Student Challenge at shadowastudent.org.

I look forward to learning more about our school by walking in the shoes of a student. I appreciate your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)



Shadow a Student Permission Slip

Student Permission

I, _____ agree to be shadowed by

Student Name

_____ for a ½ or full day of school in April, 2019.

Staff Name

Signed _____

Date _____

Parent Permission

I give my permission for _____ to be shadowed by

Student Name

_____ for a ½ or full day of school in April, 2019.

Staff Name

Signed _____

Date _____

(Parent or Guardian)