

Informed Consent (parent/legal guardian form)

University of

Primary Investigator:

Introductory Statement

Before agreeing to allow your child to participate in this study, it is important that the following permission form be read and understood. It describes the purpose, procedures, risks and benefits of the study. It also describes the right to withdraw from the study at any time. It is important to understand that no guarantee can be made to the results.

Purpose of the Study

I understand that the purpose of this study has three purposes. The purposes are: The first purpose is to develop student voice in order to understand student views about school. The second purpose is to help teachers support students in this study through an understanding of a student's classroom, study habits and/or behaviors that affect academic work. The third purpose is to help teachers understand how they might better meet student educational needs. _____, give my consent for my child to participate where the teachers leading the study will talk with my child through brief conversations. The teacher will use open-ended questions. My child will use photo story telling to describe experiences and thoughts as a student in school. Up to seven students will participate in this study. If a family chooses not to give consent it will not in anyway affect their child's ability to receive proper instruction.

Procedures

As part of this study I, as a parent or guardian, understand that my child will participate in two ways. First, my child will participate in one-time brief interview not longer than thirty minutes, by answering questions asked by a teacher at school. The interview will take place in a safe and well-lit room in or near the team area. The interview will take place outside of class time (e.g. after school, during team-wide intervention period, during the team's Secrets to Success period). This interview will not in anyway interfere with the classroom learning or grading. The study will not take place during core academic class time. The study will not be associated with any particular core subject in order to avoid any chance of a subject grade being affected.

The following are examples of some interview questions. "Can you describe a day at school that went well for you? Can you describe what happens in the classes that you look forward to? Can you describe what you find difficult about school?" Parents/Guardians will not be asked to answer questions.

Second, I also understand that my child will take photographs that help describe his or her life as a student. All students will use a disposable camera provided by the teacher. There is no cost for the camera or photo processing. Students will participate in a training session on the best use of a camera. They will discuss guidelines for its use. For example, students will address questions such as when can you take a picture of another person? What do you do if a person does not want his or her picture taken? All pictures and stories are considered confidential. The stories told about the photographs and interviews will be used as data for the study. The student may request these materials at the end of the study. Any materials not returned to the student will be destroyed. All conversations will be tape-recorded for transcription.

I also understand that I will be invited to participate in a one-time phone interview. This interview will not be tape recorded. Some sample questions include: What are the things or people who

help your child's education most? Can you describe any barriers to your child's success? In what ways do you think the Photovoice project has been helpful for your child? What are your primary concerns as you begin thinking about your child's future? Could you describe your own school experience?

The overall student participation in the study will be completed by the end of December 2003.

Financial cost/remuneration

I understand that I will have no financial costs. I understand that neither my child nor I will be paid to participate in this study. There will be no cost for the camera or film processing.

Potential risks and benefits

I understand that this study is intended to benefit my child by helping teachers and my child understand how she or he views and experiences school. The study may help to understand any settings in the school that have a negative or positive impact on the success of a student. This information may be valuable for teachers to improve their practice. There are no anticipated risks associated with the research. I understand that my child may experience discomfort as a result of discussing thoughts and feelings about how a student views and experiences school. Should discomfort and or other problems occur, I understand that my child has the right to decide whether or not to remain in the study. I also understand that my child may discuss any discomfort or problems, questions about the study. My child may also ask about rights as a participant in the study with the primary researcher,

Rights of the participants

I understand that taking part in this study is strictly voluntary. I may refuse to allow my child to participate or withdraw without penalty. If I choose to participate, I may have my child withdraw from the study at any time with a verbal or written request to withdraw. They can stop without penalty of any kind. I understand that even if a parent has given permission for the child to participate, the child still has the right to not participate or withdraw from the study. I also understand that I have the right to contact the researcher or the researcher's advisor should any questions arise. I understand that I will receive a copy of this informed consent for reference, contact names and numbers.

Confidentiality and disposition of data

Information gathered from interviews and photo story telling is considered data for the study. I understand that to protect confidentiality my child's name and the names of other participants will be changed or removed from all written data including field notes and interview transcripts. No real names will be used in written or oral reports of study results. I also understand that no one except the teachers on the team will have access to the interview data or tape recordings, and that the team will discuss student input to improve teacher performance. All data will be stored in a locked cabinet and destroyed after the study is completed.

Consent Statement

I, the undersigned, have read the above explanation and give my consent to voluntarily participate in this study, which investigates three things. First, we will study the development of student voice in order to understand student perspective about school. Second, we may learn how to support students through an understanding of the student's study habits and/or behaviors that affect academic success. And third, we hope to learn how teachers might adapt instructional strategies to more effectively meet student educational needs. I will receive a copy of this consent form.

Signature of Participant Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian Date

Signature of Primary Investigator Date

DO NOT COPY