

## Lawrence Public Schools

### PEER RELATIONSHIPS IN SCHOOLS Consent for Participation Form

In collaboration with the school district, the KU Child Behavior Lab at the University of Kansas invites your child to participate in a research study at his/her school. There are many things that can affect the way children act. We want to understand how friends, activities, and school influence children's behavior.

We are asking parents of youth in Lawrence Public Schools to allow their children to participate. If you say yes, your child will be asked to answer a series of questions about their feelings, behaviors, social support, and experiences of bullying and other negative life events twice during this academic year. Your child will answer questions during part of their normal school day in his/her classroom in a group setting. Trained study staff members will be present to monitor the classroom while your child answers questions, but no one associated with the school will be in the room while your child is participating in the study. The questionnaires will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

The risks for your child participating in the current study are minimal. A possible risk of your child's participation is that certain questions might make your child feel uncomfortable or embarrassed. Your child is free not to answer those questions. There is also a slight possibility that other children may see your child's answers. However, investigators will space children out appropriately and will encourage children to keep their answers covered to reduce this possibility.

The benefits of this project are a greater understanding of what influences children's behavior. This information will help professionals and the school district to identify ways to improve the school environment by reducing bullying and other negative behaviors.

Your child can drop out of the study at any time and can skip any question that they do not want to answer. None of your child's individual answers will be shared with teachers or school administrators. We will keep all of your child's answers private; no one except the people working on the study will see their answers. We will assign your child an ID number that will be used to identify their survey data. Your child's name will not be able to be associated with any of their answers. All surveys will be kept in a secured, locked area, accessible only to those involved with the study. All data saved to a computer will be password protected. When we report the findings of our study, we will not identify or name any children. We will only describe what we have learned about the children as a group. The list that matches your child to an ID number will be securely shredded within 7 years of data collection, and the data will be destroyed 5 years after the final results of the project are published.

If you allow your child to participate, their data will be matched (using an ID number) with school record data (absences/tardies, behaviors, grades). The school will provide the student and the parent with the copy of the school records disclosed, if requested.

Although rare, confidentiality will be broken if the information your child reports suggests a clear danger to him/herself or another person. Some examples of when confidentiality may be broken include suicidal intent or child abuse. However, your child will not be asked about any of these topics. The permission that you give to use and disclose your child's information (without their name) will always remain in effect.

You are not required to consent to participation in this study and you may refuse participation without affecting your right to any services you are receiving or may receive from the University of Kansas or the Lawrence School System. However, if you refuse to grant your child permission, he/she cannot participate in this study.



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**QUESTIONS ABOUT PARTICIPATION**

Questions about procedures should be directed to the researcher listed at the end of this consent form.

**PARTICIPANT CERTIFICATION:**

If you have further questions you can contact Dr. Fite at 785-864-1887. If you have any additional questions about your child's rights as a research participant, you can call (785) 864-7429, write to the Human Subjects Committee Lawrence Campus (HSCL), University of Kansas, 2385 Irving Hill Road, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7568, or email [irb@ku.edu](mailto:irb@ku.edu).

*Please make sure to check the box below that indicates your voluntary participation decision.*

**ALLOW MY CHILD TO PARTICIPATE** →

**DO NOT WANT MY CHILD TO PARTICIPATE** →

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Researcher Contact Information**

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