



The School Belonging Study

Parental Consent and Permission for Child's Participation in Research

Protocol Title: Associations Between Participation in Free School Meal Programs and Sense of Belonging

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Key Information

You are being asked to give permission for you and your child to be in a research study. Your child will also be asked if they want to be in the study.

Below is some key information to keep in mind when thinking about why you may or may not want yourself or your child to be in the research. Additional details will follow in later sections.

After you have read the information about the study, please click the appropriate box to indicate whether you give permission for you and your child to participate.

Introduction

The purpose of this form is to provide you information that will help you decide whether to grant permission for you and your child to participate in this research study. The person performing the research will answer any of your questions. Take your time, read the information below, and ask any questions you might have before deciding whether or not to allow you and your child to take part. If you decide to participate as well as to allow your child to be involved in this study, this form will be used to record your permission.

Purpose of the Study



You have been asked to give permission for yourself and your child to participate in a research study about their participation in and feelings regarding participation in a free/reduced meal program at school.

The purpose of this study is to determine whether free/reduced meal programs at school impacted students' sense of belonging during adolescence.

Why am I being asked to participate and allow my child to take part in this research study?

You are being asked to participate and allow your child to take part in this study because they have participated or currently participate in a free/reduced school meal program. Your decision and their decision about whether or not to participate in this study, is completely voluntary. You may stop participating, refuse to allow them to participate, or stop permission for them to be in this research study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to you or your child.

How many participants will take part in this study and how long will it take?

This study will take approximately 25-30 minutes and will include approximately 200 total study participants.

Your child's participation will last for approximately 10-15 minutes.

If you have multiple children who meet the study criteria, you will be able to take the study with each child.

What will I be asked to do?

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to:

- Answer a series of eligibility questions to determine if you meet the criteria for this study.
- Complete the Child Stage 1 and Child Stage 2 section of the 18-item USDA Food Insecurity Questionnaire.
- Answer questions regarding your child's participation in free/reduced school meal programs.
- Answer a series of demographic questions.

What will my child be asked to do?

If you agree to allow your child to participate in this study, they will be asked to:

- Complete the Psychological Sense of School Membership Scale (PSSM) (Goodenow, 1993).
- Answer several questions regarding their general sense of belonging at school.
 - Some questions are multiple choice (on a Likert scale) and others are open-ended.
- Answer questions regarding their knowledge of their participation in free/reduced school meal programs.
- Answer questions regarding their sense of belonging. Specifically, how it is impacted by their participation in free/reduced school meal programs.



- Answer a series of demographic questions.

Additional information may be provided in the next section of this consent form “Additional Details”

What are the risks involved in this study?

We do not anticipate any risk to participants in this study. However, it is possible that answering questions regarding sense of belonging at school may make them feel uncomfortable. Although we do not anticipate any data breach, loss of confidentiality of data is always a possibility with online studies. The risks involved with participation in this study are low and may include loss of confidentiality of data and stress from answering questions regarding a sensitive topic such as sense of belonging.

The researchers will tell you about any important new information that is learned during the course of this study, which might affect your child’s condition or your willingness to continue permitting your child to participate in this study.

Additional information may be provided in the next section of this consent form “Additional Details”.

What are the possible benefits of this study?

Your child will receive no direct benefit from participating in this study; however, there may be societal benefits such as increasing our understanding of how participation in free/reduced school meal programs impacts sense of belonging.

Do I have to participate?

No, your participation is voluntary. You may decide not to give consent at all, or if you start the study you may withdraw at any time. Withdrawal or refusing to participate will not affect your relationship with the University of Connecticut in anyway.

Does my child have to participate?

No, your child’s participation is voluntary. You may decide not to give permission at all or, if your child starts the study, you may withdraw them at any time. Withdrawal or refusing to participate will not affect your or your child’s relationship with the University of Connecticut in anyway.

If you would like your child to participate, please complete the consent form at the beginning of the online survey. You may view a copy of this form on our website *insert link*.

Will participating in the study cost me or my child anything?

No. There are no direct costs for taking part in this research study.



Will there be any travel or other study-associated costs (for example, child care) and will researchers provide any money to cover those costs?

No. There will be no study-associated costs.

Will my child be paid for taking part in this research?

Yes. You and your child will each receive \$5 for your time and effort spend completing this one-time online survey. If you participate with more than one of your children, you will receive \$5 each time you complete the survey. You will both receive the payment by eGift card. At the end of the study, you will be asked to enter your email address so that you can receive the link to the gift card. Your child will also be asked to provide their email address, if they do not have one, you may enter your email address again. The eGift cards will be distributed through Giftbit, an online service. Through Giftbit you will be able to select either a \$5 Amazon.com or \$5 Walmart gift card. The email addresses you and your child provide will not be tied to your previous survey responses. Additionally, we will be conducting a raffle to give 2 participants a \$50 Amazon.com or Walmart eGift card. Winners of this raffle will be notified within 3 months of the end of the study data collection.

Additional Information about your Child's Participation

How will my and my child's information be protected?

We will make every effort to protect the confidentiality of study records that identify your child, but we cannot guarantee total confidentiality. Participants will not be asked to provide their name, so their name will not be linked to their data. All data will be stored in software provided by UConn. Data will be destroyed after 5 years of study completion. Your child's information will be viewed by the research team and other people within UConn who help administer and oversee research, including the UConn Institutional Review Board, and Research Compliance Services.

What will happen if I decide to withdraw or withdraw my child from the study?

You or your child can decide to stop participating at any time.

After your child leaves the study, no new information will be collected from them. Information that has already been collected can be withdrawn from the database if you choose.



Who can I contact with questions about the study?

Prior to, during or after your child's participation you can contact the Principal Investigator (using the contact information on page one) for any questions or concerns or if you feel that your child has been harmed or injured as a result of being in the research.

Who can I contact with questions concerning my child's rights as a research participant?

Prior to, during or after your child's participation you can contact the IRB Office at 860-486-8802 or email irb@uconn.edu to:

- Discuss problems, concerns, and questions, including questions about your child's rights as a person in a research study
- Obtain information
- Offer input.

The IRB Office is not affiliated with any specific research study. You can contact anonymously if you wish.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this research study is voluntary. You may decide not to participate at all or, if you start the study, you may withdraw at any time. Withdrawal or refusing to participate will not affect your relationship with the University of Connecticut in any way.

If you would like to give your consent to participate, please select the answer choice that reads 'I agree to participate in this research project'. You may view a copy of this form on our website using this link:

insert link

Your child's participation in this research study is voluntary. You may decide not to allow your child to participate at all or, if they start the study, you may withdraw them at any time. Withdrawal or refusing to participate will not affect your or your child's relationship with the University of Connecticut in any way.

If you would like to give permission for your child to participate, please select the answer choice that reads 'I agree to have my child participate in this research project'. You may view a copy of this form on our website using this link: *insert link*

Consenting to be in this Study:

You have been informed about this study's purpose, procedures, possible benefits, and risks, and you have been given about how to access a copy of this form. You have been given the opportunity to ask questions



before you sign, and you have been told that you can ask other questions at any time. You voluntarily agree to allow yourself and your child to participate in this study.

If you click the 'I agree to in this research project' button, it means that you have read this consent form agree to be a participant in this study. By agreeing to participate, you are not waiving any of your legal rights.

If you click the 'I agree to have my child participate in this research project' button, it means that you have read this consent form and agree to allow your child to be a participant in this study. By agreeing to their participation, you are not waiving any of your, or your child's, legal rights.

☐ I agree to participate in this research project.

☐ I do not agree to participate in this research project.

☐ I agree to have my child participate in this research project.

☐ I do not agree to have my child participate in this research project.