



THE INCLUSIVE SKILL-BUILDING
LEARNING APPROACH

Dear Family,

My name is Rhonda Nese, and I am a professor at the University of Oregon. I am writing to let you know that your child's school, Stevenson Middle School, is participating in a research study, Preventing School Exclusion and Opioid Misuse: Effectiveness of the Inclusive Skill-building Learning Approach (ISLA). This research is conducted with support provided by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Northwest PBIS Network (OR), the Hawaii Department of Education (HI), the California PBIS Coalition and the Placer County Office of Education (CA), the University of Texas at Arlington (TX), the University of Alabama (AL), and Georgia State University (GA).

What is the purpose of this study?

This research study is testing the effectiveness of a teacher-training program called the Inclusive Skill-building Learning Approach, or ISLA. This training program was designed to: improve teaching practices that help all students succeed in the classroom, boost students' interest in classwork, strengthen student-teacher relationships, and reduce the use of discipline practices such as suspension or expulsion, which have been linked to a variety of bad outcomes for youth. We will examine how much your school changes the way they interact with students after receiving this training.

We will also evaluate how much educators like the training program, and how easy it is for schools to apply their learning, make changes, and maintain new procedures. What does this mean for your child? We will be providing a series of trainings to all staff members at your child's school. Our hope is that all students will benefit from the ISLA intervention once the educators in your child's school learn about ways to support student engagement, decrease the use of suspension and expulsion, and engage in more positive relationships with students. Student-level demographic and discipline data for all 6th grade students at your child's school will be shared with the researchers without student names or other direct identifiers.

We are also interested in understanding how your schools' participation in this training affects Students' Happiness at school and with learning; Sense of connection to their school; Drug and Alcohol use (if any); Anxiety or Depression; and Fighting or other impulsive behaviors.

To do this, we would like to hear from current 6th grade students. A small group of students from each school will be randomly selected to participate in a survey. Random selection means that

we select students in a process like drawing names out of a hat. Every 6 th grader in the school has an equal chance of getting selected. If you are the guardian of a 6 th grade student, you will soon receive a consent form that includes more specific information about the student survey. You will have the opportunity to agree or decline to have your child participate in that part of the project. If you agree to their participation and your child is invited to complete a survey, they will also have the opportunity to decide if they want to participate.

How will my family's privacy be protected? The records of this study will be kept confidential. In any sort of report we may publish, we will not include any information that will make it possible to identify your child or any other student. Research records will be kept in locked files.

Electronic information will not contain any identifying personal information about individual participants. Access to the records will be limited to the researchers; however, please note that regulatory agencies, and the Institutional Review Board and internal University of Oregon auditors may review the research records. All instructional material - including teaching guides; manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary instructional material - which will be used in connection with this research project shall be available for parents or guardians of students at your school to inspect.

If you have questions about the research at any time, or if you have a visual or other impairment and require this material in another format, please contact me at [541-346-4751] or ISLAinfo@uoregon.edu. You may also contact University of Oregon Research Compliance Services, 541-346-2510 (ResearchCompliance@uoregon.edu) with any questions you may have about the project.

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