

PEER RELATIONSHIPS IN SCHOOLS
Consent for Participation Form for Middle and High School

Key Information:

- This project is studying how friends, activities, sleep, and school influence adolescent behavior.
 - Your student’s participation in this research is completely voluntary
 - Your student’s participation will take 20-30 minutes.
 - Your student will be asked to answer questions on an online questionnaire. More detailed information on the procedures can be found below.
 - Risks for your student during this study include: (1) some questions asked in the study may make your student feel uncomfortable or embarrassed and (2) there is a slight possibility that other youth may see your student’s answers.
 - You may be interested in having your student participate in this survey because their participation will help professionals and the school district to identify ways to improve the school environment by reducing bullying and other negative behaviors.
 - Your alternative to participating in this research study is to not participate.
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DETAILED INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Psychology at the University of Kansas supports the practice of protection for human subjects participating in research. The following information is provided for you to decide whether you wish for your student to participate in the present study. You may refuse to complete this form and not participate in this study. You should be aware that even if you agree to participate, you and/or your student are free to withdraw at any time. If you do withdraw from the study, it will not affect your relationships with this unit, the services it may provide to you, or the University of Kansas.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

There are many things that can affect the way students act. The purpose of this study is to understand how family, friends, activities, sleep, and school influence students’ behavior.

PROCEDURES

If you allow your student to participate, your student will be asked to answer a series of questions about their family, feelings, and behaviors, including sleep, substance use, delinquency, bullying, and other negative life events twice during this academic year. Your student 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 student answers questions, but no one associated with the school will be in the room while your student is participating in the study. The questionnaires will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. There is no compensation associated with participation.

RISKS

The risks for your student participating in the current study are minimal. A possible risk of your student’s participation is that certain questions might make your student feel uncomfortable or embarrassed. Your student is free not to answer those questions. There is also a slight possibility that other students may see your student’s



answers. However, investigators will space students out appropriately and will encourage students to keep their answers covered to reduce this possibility.

BENEFITS

The benefits of this project are a greater understanding of what influences students' 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. There are no direct benefits to individual participants in the current study.

CONFIDENTIALITY

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

If you allow your student to participate, their data will be matched (using an ID number) with school record data (absences/tardies, behaviors, grades) and teacher reported data in order for us to better understand behaviors that occur in the school. The school will provide the student and the parent with the copy of the school records disclosed, if requested. If your student participated in this survey in previous years (at any site, including Eudora Elementary School, Eudora Middle School, or Eudora High School), this year's data will also be matched to previous years' data so that we can see how things have changed.

To help us protect your and your student's privacy, we have obtained a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health. The researchers can use this Certificate to legally refuse to disclose information that may identify you or your student in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings, for example, if there is a court subpoena. The researchers will use the Certificate to resist any demands for information that would identify you or your student, except as explained below.

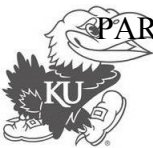
Although rare, the Certificate of Confidentiality will not be used to prevent disclosure to state or local authorities if the information your student reports a clear danger to him/herself or another person. Some examples of when confidentiality may be broken include suicidal intent or child abuse. However, your student will not be asked about any of these topics. You should understand that a Certificate of Confidentiality does not prevent you or a member of your family from voluntarily releasing information about yourself or your involvement in this research.

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 Eudora School District. However, if you refuse to grant your student permission, he/she cannot participate in this study.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PARTICIPATION

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

PARTICIPANT CERTIFICATION:



If you have further questions, you can contact the KU Child Behavior Lab at 785-864-7830 or fitelab@ku.edu. If you have any additional questions about your student's rights as a research participant, you can call (785) 864-7429, write to the Human Research Protection Program (HRPP), University of Kansas, 2385 Irving Hill Road, Lawrence, Kansas 66045- 7568, or email irb@ku.edu.

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

Researcher Contact Information

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