

Parent Notification Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your school is participating in the Middle Grades Longitudinal Study of 2017-18 (MGLS:2017), conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the U.S. Department of Education. MGLS:2017 gives you and your child the rare opportunity to share your experiences and opinions to help improve education for your child and children in the future. We are writing now about your child's participation, and you will receive a separate invitation for you to participate as well.

WHO: About 20,000 students from across the country will be participating.

WHAT: Students will complete a survey about themselves and their experiences, answer some math and reading questions, and play some "brain games". They will also provide height and weight measurements, which are important to understanding the growth and development of adolescents. The student session will be conducted on Chromebook computers supplied by the study, and participation is voluntary. Later, in fall 2021, student administrative records may be collected.

WHEN: Your student's school will choose a convenient day and time between January and June 2020 for students to spend 90 minutes in the MGLS:2017 student session.

WHERE: The school will choose the best location for the session, typically a classroom or media center.

WHY: The study will help us learn more about students' growth during the middle grades and ways we can support them. Together, this information will help us learn how to give all middle grades students the experiences and skills they need to thrive in these critical years of education.

Your child will receive a 2-hour community service certificate, a pencil, and a pair of earbuds as a "thank you" for participating.

To learn more: Visit the study website at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/MGLS/> or scan the QR code. If you have questions, please call us at (855) 500-1432 or send an email to mglssurvey@rti.org.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about this important study and how you can help.

IMPORTANT: This is not a test, and it is not graded. We follow very strict laws to protect personal information and any data collected. All information collected is securely maintained. All reports will use aggregate information for all students who participate; no names will be published in the data files or reports.

NCES is authorized to conduct MGLS:2017 by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543) and to collect students' education records from education agencies or institutions for the purposes of evaluating federally supported education programs under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(3)(iii) and 99.35). The data are being collected for NCES by RTI International, a U.S.-based nonprofit research organization. All of the information you and your child provide may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). The collected information will be combined across respondents to produce statistical reports.