

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
Fairfax County Public Schools Evaluation
Parental Consent Form

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH STUDY:

We are conducting an evaluation of the FCPSOn initiative in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). This initiative “moves FCPS students and staff members to look beyond the high-stakes testing environment and to help our students develop skills so they can be successful in the workforce of the future.” Learn more about the FCPSOn initiative here: <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/technology/fcpson>

As a student in a school implementing the FCPSOn initiative, we are requesting permission for your child to participate in this evaluation. Their participation will involve them being invited to complete a short survey online and they may be selected to participate in a brief focus group to share their opinions concerning the FCPSOn initiative.

PROCEDURES:

If you and your child agree to participate, your child will be presented an online survey by their teacher. They will also be entered into a pool of students from which students will be randomly selected and asked to participate in a brief focus group. These activities will occur at your child’s school during spring 2018. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The focus group will last approximately 45 minutes and will occur during regular school hours.

RISKS/DISCOMFORTS:

The general risks of participating in this study are no greater than risks met in daily life, during routine physical activity, or psychological examinations or tests. Confidentiality is guaranteed on behalf of the research team. Research involving focus groups has a small level of risk that students in the focus group may talk later about what was discussed during the session. To help resolve this risk, the focus group will only discuss topics related to the FCPSOn initiative.

BENEFITS:

This study will evaluate perceptions of the impact of the FCPSOn initiative on teaching and learning, acquisition of 21st century skills, student interest and engagement, advantages and challenges of technology infusion into learning, etc. This study may benefit society if the results lead to a better understanding of how best to implement such an initiative in a large school district.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AND RIGHT TO WITHDRAW:

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you decide not to allow your child to participate, there are no penalties, and your child will not lose any benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled.

If you and your child agree to participate, we will ask your child when they are presented the survey if they would like to participate. Your child will also have the option to decline to

participate in the focus group, if they are randomly selected. After the study has begun, if you or your child decide they no longer want to participate, please notify the principal investigator (phone number below) that you do not want your child to participate.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

If you agree to participate, all information we collect from your child and your child's school will be kept confidential and will be used only for research. You and your child will not be identified in any report or presentation. The information will not be part of your child's school record.

All research records and data will be kept confidential and will be used only for research. For transcription and note-taking purposes, the focus groups will be audio recorded, however participants will not be identified in any report or presentation. Except as may be required by law, no information will be released to anyone who has not signed a confidentiality agreement. All documents will be stored in locked files. Electronic files will be stored on secure, password protected computers located at Johns Hopkins University CRRE headquarters in Towson, Maryland.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

You and your child can ask questions about this research study now or at any time during the study. Please contact Dr. Jennifer Morrison, Principal Investigator, at 410-616-2395 (JRMorrison@jhu.edu) with any questions regarding this research study. If you or your child have questions about your rights as a research subject, or feel that you have not been treated fairly, please call the Homewood Institutional Review Board of the Johns Hopkins University at (410) 516-6580.

Please **sign below only if you do NOT want your child to participate** in this study, then return this form to the school's main office. If you consent to your child's participation, keep this form for your records. Your child will be automatically invited to participate.

 I do not allow my child to participate in the study.

Name of Child

Name of School

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date