

Title of Research Study: Link for Equity

University of Minnesota Researcher: Marizen Ramirez, PhD

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

What is research?

Researchers are committed to your care and safety. The goal of research is to learn new things to help kids in the future. Researchers learn things by asking a question, making a plan, and testing it.

Why am I being asked to take part in this research study?

A research study is usually done to find a better way to treat people or to understand how things work. You are being asked to take part in this research study because you are a student at a participating school and identify as full or part African American/Black, American Indian/Native/Indigenous, and/or Hispanic/Latino heritage.

What should I know about being in a research study?

You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to do so. If you want to participate, talk to your parents about any questions or concerns you have about the study. You can choose not to take part now and change your mind later if you want. If you decide you do not want to be in this study, no one will be mad at you. You can ask all the questions you want before you decide.

Why is this research being done?

This study is being done to find out more about how Link for Equity helps children deal with challenging life experiences like bullying, racism and discrimination. Link trains staff to speak to children of color in a culturally sensitive way. Student stress, racial discrimination, discipline records, and connectedness with adults will be measured.

How long will the research last?

You should expect to be in this research study for one to three years.

What happens if I say “Yes, I want to be in this research?”

If it is okay with you and you agree to join this study, you will be asked to complete two surveys for each year you are enrolled in a participating school. You could participate for up to three years if you are enrolled in both a middle and a high school that is using Link for Equity. You could be complete up to six surveys over three years.

If you agree to join this study, we will ask the school for their records to help us measure the impact of Link for Equity. These data will be provided by the school or district. We will store this information using a unique study identification number (not your name) to help maintain confidentiality.

If you are an eligible student at a school where Link for Equity is being implemented, you will also be asked to meet with school staff who has been trained as a Link Specialist at least once a month. These meetings will take between 10-30 minutes each. Your identity will be protected and will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team.

If you are a student at a control school (Link for Equity not yet implemented), you will not be asked to meet with a school Link Specialist. You will just be asked to complete surveys.

We will not ask you about child abuse, but if you tell us a child is in danger or report risks to a child's safety, we may be required or permitted by law or policy to report to authorities.

What happens if I say “No, I do not want to be in this research?”

You do not have to participate in this research. If you do not want to participate, contact the University of Minnesota study office at 612.626.4816 or by email at LinkForEquity@umn.edu. By not doing this you are enrolled in the study.

Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me?

While we do not expect the study to be bad for you, you may experience some psychological discomfort while completing the surveys.

Additionally, if you are participating in Link sessions, you may feel some psychological discomfort. You will be speaking with a Link Specialist (school personnel) who will be trained in open communication skills, and these sessions will occur in private to maintain your privacy.

Will being in this study help me in any way?

We cannot promise any benefits to you or others from your taking part in this research. However, possible benefits include staff at your school building skills to speak to children of color in a culturally sensitive way.

If you are an eligible student at a school where Link for Equity is being implemented, you will receive one-on-one sessions with a school staff member trained in open communication skills that could help reduce levels of stress and build school connectedness.

What happens to the information collected for the research?

The researchers will share your information, including research study records, only to people who have a need to review this information. For example, sometimes researchers need to share information with the University or other people that work in research to make sure the researchers are following the rules.

Will I be paid for being in this research study?

If you agree to take part in this research study, the researcher will pay you \$10 each time you complete a survey. Payment will be made using a pre-paid debit card called Greenhire ClinCard. It works like a bank debit card.

After you complete your first survey, we will give you a ClinCard which comes with an information sheet that answers common questions. This includes information on how you can use this card and who to call if you have any questions. Each time you complete a survey, we will post a payment to your card.

Who can I talk to?

For questions about research appointments, the research study, research results, or other concerns, call the study team at:

Researcher: Marizen Ramirez, PhD University of Minnesota Phone Number: 612-624-3143 Email Address: mramirez@umn.edu	Study Coordinator: Allison Iwan Phone Number: 612-626-4816 Email Address: LinkForEquity@umn.edu
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This research has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB), a group of people that look at the research before it starts. This group is part of the Human Research Protection Program (HRPP). To share concerns privately with the HRPP about your research experience, call the Research Participants' Advocate Line at [612-625-1650](tel:612-625-1650) (Toll Free: 1-888-224-8636) or go to z.umn.edu/participants. You are encouraged to contact the HRPP if:

- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team or your parents.
- You have questions about your rights as a research participant.
- You want to get information or provide feedback about this research.