

Title of Research Study: Link for Equity

Investigator Team Contact Information:

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

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Information About This Research Study

The following is a short summary to help you decide whether or not to be a part of this research study.

What is research?

The goal of research is to learn new things in order to help people in the future. Investigators learn things by following the same plan with a number of participants, so they do not usually make changes to the plan for individual participants. You, as an individual, may or may not be helped by volunteering for a research study.

Why is my child being invited to take part in this research study?

We are asking you to permit your child to take part in this research study because your child is enrolled at a participating school, and identifies as full or partial African American/Black, American Indian/Native/ Indigenous, and/or Hispanic/Latino heritage.

What should I know about a research study?

- Someone will explain this research study to you.
- Whether or not you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- You can ask all the questions you want before you decide.

Why is this research being done?

This research is being done to evaluate Link for Equity, a program to help children deal with various challenging life experiences such as bullying, racism and discrimination. When children experience these events, sometimes their reactions are misinterpreted as acting out. Connecting with a caring adult at school can help. Link trains school staff to become culturally sensitive to children’s experiences, and to use open communication skills to help children deal with stressful life events. We will test if Link for Equity can improve relationships between school staff and students and thereby prevent racism and reduce harsh discipline of minority children.

How long will the research last?

We expect that your child will be in this research study for up to three years. Each survey is expected to take no

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more than 10 minutes; one survey each spring and fall. If your child is enrolled at a school where Link for Equity is being implemented, your child would meet with a Link Specialist (school personnel) at least once a month for 10-30 minutes, up to three years depending on if your child is still enrolled at a school where the study is taking place.

What will I need to do to have my child participate?

You will be asked to review this information form, and your child must review an accompanying information form. You and your child will have the opportunity to discuss any questions with a member of the research team prior to joining the study.

Is there any way that being in this study could be bad for my child?

We do not expect the study to be bad for your child. He or she will be asked to fill out surveys about stress, which may be mildly uncomfortable. If your child participates in a Link session, he or she will meet with a trained school personnel (Link specialist) to talk about life stressors like racism or bullying which may cause some discomfort. The Link sessions, however, are designed to support children. The sessions will occur in private to maintain privacy and are led by school personnel trained in open communication skills.

Will being in this study help my child in any way?

We cannot promise any benefits to your child or others from 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 and reduced violence exposures.

If your child is an eligible student at a school where Link for Equity is being implemented, they 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 if I do not want my child to be in this research?

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

How many people will be studied?

We expect about 100 students at your child's school will be in this research study out of 1200 students in the participating across all schools in Minnesota participating in this study.

What happens if I say "Yes, I want my child to be in this research"?

Your child will be asked to fill out two surveys each year he or she is in the study. Your child could participate for up to three years if he or she is enrolled in a school that is using Link for Equity.

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

If your child is an eligible student where Link for Equity is being implemented, you child will also be asked to meet with a Link Specialist (school personnel) at least once a month. The Link Specialist will be trained to use open communication skills in a culturally sensitive way to connect and support your child. These meetings will take between 10-30 minutes each. Your child's identity will be protected and will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team.

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If your child is a student at a control school (Link for Equity not yet implemented), your child will not be asked to meet with a Link specialist. He or she will be asked to just complete surveys.

What happens if I say “Yes”, but I change my mind later?

Your child can leave the research study at any time and no one will be upset by their decision. If your child decides to leave the research study, contact the investigator so they are not contacted for future activities.

Choosing not to be in this study or to stop being in this study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. This means that your choice not to be in this study will not negatively affect your child’s academic standing as a student, or your present or future employment.

Will it cost me anything to participate in this research study?

There will be no cost to you for any of the study activities or procedures.

What happens to the information collected for the research?

Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your child’s personal information, including research records, to people who have a need to review this information. We cannot promise complete confidentiality. Organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the Institutional Review Board (IRB), the committee that provides ethical and regulatory oversight of research, and other representatives of this institution, including those that have responsibilities for monitoring or ensuring compliance.

We will not ask you or your child about child [or vulnerable adult] abuse, but if you or your child tells us about child [or vulnerable adult] abuse or neglect, we may be required or permitted by law or policy to report to authorities.

Your child’s identity will be protected. All data collected for the study will be stored under a unique study ID number, separate from any of your child’s personal identifying information, like their name.

Certificate of Confidentiality

To help protect your child’s privacy, the National Institutes of Health has granted a Certificate of Confidentiality. The researchers can use this Certificate legally to refuse to disclose information that may identify you or your child 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 child, except as explained below.

The Certificate does not prevent a researcher from reporting information learned in research when required by other state or federal laws, such as mandatory reports to local health authorities for abuse or neglect of children or vulnerable adults, or information to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) when required in an FDA audit. However, the Certificate limits the researcher from disclosing such information in follow up civil, criminal, legislative or administrative legal proceedings if the information was created or compiled for purposes of the research.

You also 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. If an insurer, medical care provider, or other person obtains your written consent to receive research information, then the researchers will not use the Certificate to withhold that information.

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Data Collected

Data will be retained indefinitely after the study for future research. Data will be stored on secure servers at the University of Minnesota. Only researchers for this study will have access to the data. Data without identifiers could be used for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without additional consent.

If identifiers are removed from your child’s information collected during this research, that information could be used for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without your additional informed consent.

Will anyone besides the study team be at my consent meeting?

You may be asked by the study team for your permission for an auditor to observe your consent meeting. Observing the consent meeting is one way that the University of Minnesota makes sure that your rights as a research participant are protected. The auditor is there to observe the consent meeting, which will be carried out by the people on the study team. The auditor will not document any personal (e.g. name, date of birth) or confidential information about you. The auditor will not observe your consent meeting without your permission ahead of time.

Whom do I contact if I have questions, concerns or feedback about my experience?

This research has been reviewed and approved by an IRB within the Human Research Protections Program (HRPP). To share feedback 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.
- You have questions about your rights as a research participant.
- You want to get information or provide input about this research.

Will I have a chance to provide feedback after the study is over?

The HRPP may ask you to complete a survey that asks about your experience as a research participant. You do not have to complete the survey if you do not want to. If you do choose to complete the survey, your responses will be anonymous.

If you are not asked to complete a survey, but you would like to share feedback, please contact the study team or the HRPP. See the “Investigator Contact Information” of this form for study team contact information and “Whom do I contact if I have questions, concerns or feedback about my experience?” of this form for HRPP contact information.

Will my child be compensated for participation?

If you agree for your child to take part in this research study, we will pay your child \$10 for each completed survey for their time and effort.

Payment will be made using a pre-paid debit card called Greenphire ClinCard. It works like a bank debit card. When your child completes the first survey, we will give them a ClinCard which comes with an information sheet that answers common questions. This includes information on how to use the card and who to call if there are questions. Money will be added to the card after each completed survey.