

## **R + D for Math Equity Parent Consent Form (opt out version)**

1. Study Title: R + D for Math Equity

2. The primary goal of this research study is to better understand how technology, specifically the DreamBox Learning app, works in students' math learning. The study will examine student motivation, engagement, and persistence in learning math. The study aims to support the development of an efficient, effective, and equitable research infrastructure in math education and achievement, especially for students who historically have learning gaps in math.

The study will be conducted over three years for a group of students in grades 5-8. Students will be asked to complete written surveys and short (20 questions or less) math assessments. Students' school records will be examined over the three years of study. A subsample of participants will participate in guided small group interviews.

R + D for Math Equity is a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded project. Your student is being asked to participate in this study because your student is participating in and will be impacted by these activities. Consent is required by Louisiana State University for research studies conducted by investigators at the University. This study has been reviewed by the University's Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects. No research activity involving you is to be conducted if you decide to opt out of this opportunity. Once you review this consent form, you can ask any questions you may have and decide to opt out of the study.

3. Risks: There is little risk to participants. The surveys reflect attitudes and perceptions about learning math in school. All responses are in aggregate form, and no teacher or principal will learn of any individual responses. There is a possible inconvenience, which may be the time it takes to complete the study. Surveys should take about 15-20 minutes. If your child participates in a focus group, other students in the group may learn how your child thinks about math learning and teaching. We will take precautions to maintain confidentiality, but there is always a small risk of breach of confidentiality.

4. Benefits: Your child may not benefit directly from participating in this research project. Information learned from this study will inform researchers, schools, teachers, and the technology partner about students' math learning and teaching practices. Knowledge gained may refine future educational programs and the development of teaching practices.

5. Investigators: If you have further questions about this study, want to voice concerns or complaints about the research or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact research staff members Dr. Judith Rhodes (225-578-4948; [jrhode9@lsu.edu](mailto:jrhode9@lsu.edu)), Dr. H. Colleen Sinclair (225-578-4899; [csinclair@lsu.edu](mailto:csinclair@lsu.edu)), Dr. Samuel Robison (225-578-6293; [srobis2@lsu.edu](mailto:srobis2@lsu.edu)), and Dr. Lily Kim ([ykim@lsu.edu](mailto:ykim@lsu.edu), 225-578-1019), Ms. Stacey Terrio ([sterri3@lsu.edu](mailto:sterri3@lsu.edu), 225-578-5324), Nate Armour ([narmou4@lsu.edu](mailto:narmou4@lsu.edu), 225-578-4899).

6. Performance Site: Elementary, middle, and high schools in East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS) where the R + D for Math Equity program is implemented.

7. Number of Subjects: 10000

8. Subject Inclusion: EBRPSS math teachers; students in grades 5- 8 in the 2024-2025 school year.

9. Right to Refuse: You are not required to participate in the research portion of R + D for Math Equity. If you agree to be in the study, but later change your mind, you may opt out at any time. There are no penalties or consequences of any kind if you decide that you do not want your child to participate.

10. Privacy: Though identifying information will be collected from you, your information will be kept confidential, not to be shared with program administrators, staff, or LSU research partners. Identifying information will only be used to track activities and responses over the course of the project, and to provide controls in statistical analyses. Data that are shared with others will be de-identified or reported in summary format to protect participants' identities.

11. Signatures: The study has been discussed with me and all of my questions have been answered. I may direct additional questions regarding study specifics to the investigators. If I have questions about subjects' rights or other concerns, I can contact Dr. Alex Cohen, Institutional Review Board, (225) 578-8692, [irb@lsu.edu](mailto:irb@lsu.edu), or [www.lsu.edu/research](http://www.lsu.edu/research). By signing below, I agree to opt-out my child's participation in the study described above and acknowledge the investigator's obligation to provide me with a signed copy of this consent form.

Signature to OPT-OUT: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The study subject has indicated to me that he/she is unable to read. I certify that I have read this consent form to the subject and explained that by completing the signature line above, the subject has agreed to participate.

Signature of Reader: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_