



## Parent Engagement Text Messaging Study



### Enrollment and Consent to Participate in the Study

**Title of Research Study:** Middle School Parent Engagement Text Messaging Study

**Investigator:** Dr. Kalena E. Cortes

**Funded/Supported By:** This research is supported by Texas A&M University

**Why are you being invited to take part in a research study?**

You are being asked to participate because you have a middle school child in the school district.

**What should you know about a research study?**

- 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.

**Who can I talk to?**

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, please contact Dr. Kalena Cortes at (979) 458-8030 or via email at [kcortes@tamu.edu](mailto:kcortes@tamu.edu).

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Texas A&M Institutional Review Board (IRB). You may talk to them at at 1-979-458-4067, toll free at 1-855-795-8636, or by email at [irb@tamu.edu](mailto:irb@tamu.edu), if

- You cannot reach the research team.
- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by 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.

**Why is this research being done?**

Parent-child engagement at both home and school during the middle school years is positively associated with a wide range of behavioral and academic outcomes (attendance, grades, and test scores). Due to structural changes in school environments and the increasing autonomy of teenagers, parental-child engagement often declines during the formative middle school years. Parents face unique challenges in their ability to both guide their middle school child's academic progress and to be engaged in their child's life.



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This study seeks to promote parent-child academic engagement by sending weekly text messages to middle school parents. The text messages include facts and tips on how to best guide your child's academic trajectory and how to best support your child's social emotional learning as they transition from middle school to high school.

The results from the study will provide each participating school district with crucial details on how information regarding parent-child engagement affects students' outcomes and on how the district can support parents in their child's educational trajectory from middle school to high school.

### ***How long will the research last?***

We expect that you will be in this research study for about 8 months.

### ***How many people will be studied?***

We expect to enroll about 8,500 middle school parents in this research study at this site.

### ***What happens if I say "Yes, I want to be in this research"?***

During the enrollment stage parents are asked to say Yes or No to receive the texting curriculum. The texting program is provided at no cost to all participating school districts and parents.

Parents who choose to receive the text messages will start receiving texts in the fall through the end of the school year. To evaluate the text messages, we propose a randomized control trial study in which parents are randomly assigned to two texting groups: treatment texts (texts with parent-child academic engagement activities) and control texts (texts with "business as usual" information, the district currently sends parents district information).

There are minimal risks to participating and the main risk is that of breach of confidentiality. The benefits which may reasonably be expected to result from this study are to get helpful information about supporting and guiding your middle school child's academic trajectory and social emotional learning as they transition from middle school to high school.

As part of the study, we are also asking for your permission to access your child's administrative school data. These data include de-identified information on your child's age, gender, race/ethnicity, home language, courses taken, grades, and tests.

Your participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw your consent or discontinue participation at any time without penalty.

Your individual privacy and the confidentiality of the information you provide will be maintained to the extent allowed by law.



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### ***What happens if I do not want to be in this research?***

Your participation is voluntary, refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled.

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

You can leave the research at any time and it will not be held against you. You can leave the research at any time and it will not be held against you. You can leave the study by replying “Stop” or “Cancel” to any text message.

### ***Will being in this study help me in any way?***

The benefits which may reasonably be expected to result from this study are to get helpful information about supporting and guiding your middle school child’s academic trajectory and social emotional learning as they transition from middle school to high school.

### ***What happens to the information collected for the research?***

All data files collected as part of this study will be stored in a secure pass-word encrypted server at Texas A&M University. Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your personal information, including research study and other records, to people who have a need to review this information. We cannot promise complete privacy. Your records will be confidential to the extent allowed by law. Organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the TAMU HRPP/IRB and other representatives of this institution.

### ***What else do I need to know?***

Parents please be aware that under the Protection of Pupils Right Act 20 U.S.C. Section 1232 (c)(1)(A), you have the right to decline to be part of this study.