Principal Investigator: Kyra Caspary
Protocol Title: Evaluation of the Barr Foundation's Engage New England Initiative

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ABOUT A STUDENT SURVEY

Dear Parent/Guardian:

SRI International (SRI) and Education Analytics are studying the Engage New England initiative, which is part of the Barr Foundation's Catalyze New Models portfolio. Both SRI International and Education Analytics are independent, nonprofit research firms.

The Barr Foundation's Catalyze New Models portfolio supports high school transformation in New England. Under the Catalyze New Models umbrella, the Engage New England initiative helps educators bring new high school models to communities across the region. This initiative focuses on improving the secondary and postsecondary outcomes of students who are off track to graduate from high school.

The purpose of this research is to learn about: (1) the design and implementation of these school and program models, and (2) how the models are addressing student needs and impacting their secondary and postsecondary outcomes.

SRI and Education Analytics are partnering to conduct a student survey as part of these studies. SRI will use the survey results to identify promising educational practices by comparing the combined responses from students at your child's school to other schools in the region serving similar student populations. The analysis of the data collected in these studies will provide the Barr Foundation, its technical assistance partners, and grantees with information to support ongoing program improvement.

We would like to invite your child, along with his or her classmates, to participate in the study by completing the survey. The survey will take about 30 minutes to complete.

Your child's participation in the survey is voluntary. Your child will be asked if he or she would like to participate. Your child can stop taking the survey at any time and skip any questions he or she does not want to answer. Your child's participation in the survey will not affect his/her school status, grades, or opportunities in any way. The risks of participating are minimal, such as loss of confidentiality if there is a data breach. Steps to address this risk include storing survey responses in a secure file storage system accessible only to SRI and Education Analytics project staff. SRI and Education Analytics will not have access to any identifying information.

The survey has questions about your child's experiences at his or her current school. Your child's responses will be kept confidential. We will not share your child's individual responses with anyone at the school, district, or outside the SRI research team in a way that would enable identification of your child. In reporting, we will combine your child's responses with those of other students from the school, and we will not identify students by name.

Please contact Kyra Caspary at kyra.caspary@sri.com or 650-859-2040 if you have questions about the study or if you do NOT want your student to participate.

Independent Contact: If you are not satisfied with how this study is being conducted, or if you have any concerns, complaints, or general questions about the research or your rights as a participant, please contact the Institutional Review Board at SRI International by calling 650-859-4022 or e-mailing IRB@SRI.com.

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