

Child Assent to Participate in a Research Study

We are doing a study to learn more about students learning music. If you decide you want to be part of this study, you will be asked to fill out some forms, and your teacher at school will be asked to fill out some forms, too. Filling out the forms should take about half an hour each time you do it, and you will be asked to do it twice. You'll also be playing your instrument for one of your *El Sistema* program teachers, and they will also fill out some forms.

We will try to make sure no one sees what you write. If someone does, we will tell you and your parents.

You will not benefit from this study (a benefit means that something good happens to you). But other kids might benefit from things we learn from this study.

You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to be. Your parents said that you could be in the study if you want to. But if you decide not to, or if you want to stop after we begin, that's okay. If you'd like to stop, just tell your *PROGRAM NAME* teacher.

If you want to be in this study, please sign your name.

I, _____, want to be in this study.
(Print your name)

(Sign your name here)

(Date)

Parent Letter of Invitation

Dear [School Name] Parent,

My name is [Liaison's name], and I am [Liaison's title] at the [Program Name]. I would like to invite your child to participate in a new research study about the benefits of music education for young people like your child.

We know that music is an important part of education for children. We also know that learning music can help children with school skills like reading and math. But we think music may also help children learn other important skills like how to get along with others and how to see themselves as learners.

To find out more about this, we are studying the effects of [Program Name], at your child's school. If you allow your child to participate in our study, he or she will be asked to complete some questions about how they see themselves, how they get along with other children, and how they think about the future. This will take between than half an hour and an hour two times a year. Your child's in-school teacher will also be asked to complete some forms about how your child interacts with other children. If your child is enrolled in [Program Name], their music teacher will also be asked to complete a form about how interested your child is in the program.

We want to make sure that children are comfortable answering these questions. Your child can do the forms in either English and Spanish, and a teacher will read each item in both English and Spanish.

If your child is uncomfortable answering the questions, he or she can decide not to participate, even after beginning. Your child can tell a [Program Name] teacher that she or he wants to stop. There will be no penalty for making this choice.

If your child is a part of [Program Name] she or he will also be asked to play their instrument for one of the teachers in [Program Name], and this teacher will also be asked to fill out a form.

If you are interested in participating, please look over the attached parent permission form. There are two copies of the form: one for you to sign, and one to keep for your records. If you do not have questions, you can sign the form and return it to the main office at your child's school. If you would like to ask questions or just talk before signing the forms, please feel free to call or email me.

[Liaison's name]
[Liaison's contact information]

Parental Consent for Child's Participation in a Research Study

The Longy School of Music of Bard College and WolfBrown, a research firm, are conducting a national study of music education programs based on a model known as *El Sistema*. Your child has been selected to participate in this study because s/he either attends a school that offers one of these programs, or because other students at his or her school attend one of these programs.

We are asking if your child can participate in this research study. You may refuse or accept. You may also decide to withdraw your child for any reason without penalty. Your child can also decide not to be in the study or to end a study session early. It is important for you to understand the study so that you can make an informed choice. If your child participates in a *Sistema*-inspired music program, s/he can continue to be a part of that program whether or not s/he is part of the study.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this research study is to learn about what *Sistema*-inspired music education programs may do for children. This new information may help these programs, and others like them, improve the quality of the education they offer. It also may help support these programs by providing information about what they do for children.

How many people will take part in this study?

We are hoping that between 600 and 800 students, from programs across the United States will participate in this study

How long will your child's part in this study last?

Your child will be asked to participate in two study sessions each school year. If your child is in the music program, he or she will do two parts: one during or after the school day, and another during music program time. Both parts will take about one hour, twice a year. If your child is not in the program, their session will be in one part that will take place during or after the school day.

Children in the program will also play their instruments two times a year for a teacher at the program. Each playing session will last about 15 minutes

For children not in the program, the entire session will last about half an hour, twice a year. There will be no instrumental playing session.

What will happen if your child takes part in the study?

If your child participates in this study s/he will complete a set of forms. These forms will ask about your child's relationships with their peers, how they see themselves, and what they think about how people learn. If your child is in the music program, these questions will be asked once about school, and once about their music program.

In-school teachers will complete a set of questions about how your child behaves in school. We will also work with your child's school to get their academic grades, test scores, and

other basic information (gender, grade in school). In some cases, we may ask families directly to supply a copy of their child's report card and test scores.

If your child is in the music program, their program teacher will also complete a set of forms about how engaged your child is in the program. If they are in the program, your child will also participate in a session where they play their instrument in front of a group of music teachers who will evaluate how your child is growing as a musician.

What are the possible benefits of participating in this study?

While there are no immediate benefits to your child for participating in the study, we believe that the knowledge gained from this research may improve the quality of *El Sistema*-inspired music programs and may help more students receive music education in the future.

What are the possible risks of participating in this study?

It is possible that your child's responses may accidentally be disclosed to staff at the music program or at the school. However, we will take steps to prevent this from occurring (see below).

It is also possible that the reading level of the study might make your child uncomfortable, even though each item will also be read aloud by a teacher, and will be made available in Spanish as well as English for those children who wish to answer in Spanish.

Will you be told about new information that may affect your decision to participate?

We will share any new information gained during the course of the study that might affect your willingness to continue participation.

How will your child's privacy be protected?

All information that is obtained during this project will be labeled with an anonymous identification number, not your child's name. All research records will be kept on a secure storage server and only members of the research team will have access to those records.

What if your child wants to stop participating?

Even if you grant your child permission to participate, your child can withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. She or he needs only to tell a (Program Name) teacher that she or he does not wish to participate any longer.

Will you or your child receive anything for participating in this study?

No.

What if you or your child has questions about the study?

You and your child have the right to ask, and have answered, any questions you may have about this research. If there are questions, complaints, or concerns about the study, please contact Dr. Dennie Palmer Wolf at (617) 823-5763 or dennie@wolfbrown.com or Dr. Steven Holochwost at (919) 448-7795 or steven@wolfbrown.com or Dr. Judith Hill Bose at (617)869-5486 or Judith.Hill.Bose@longy.edu.

What if there are questions about your child's rights as research participants?

All research on human volunteers is reviewed by a committee that works to protect your child's rights and welfare. If there are questions or concerns about your child's rights as research subjects, you may contact the Dr. Pavlina Tscherneva, Chair of the Bard College Institutional Review Board, at tchernev@bard.edu.

Parent's Permission for Child's Participation in Research:

I have read the information provided above and have asked all the questions I have at this time. I voluntarily give permission to allow my child to participate in this research study.

Printed Name of Research Participant (child)

Signature of Parent

Date

Printed Name of Parent

In-School Teacher Consent to Participate in a Research Study

The Longy School of Music of Bard College and WolfBrown, a research firm, are conducting a national study of music education programs based on a model known as *El Sistema*. You have been selected to participate in this study because you teach children who attend one of these programs.

We are asking if you would participate in this research study. You may refuse or accept. You may also decide to withdraw for any reason without penalty. It is important for you to understand the study so that you can make an informed choice.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this research study is to learn about what *El Sistema*-inspired music education programs may do for children. This new information may help these programs, and others like them, improve the quality of the education they offer. It also may help sustain these programs in the long term.

How many people will take part in this study?

We are hoping that between 600 and 800 students from sites across the country will participate in this study.

How long will your part in this study last?

Your participation will take approximately 10 minutes per child in both the fall and the spring. The total amount of time will depend on how many of the children you teach participate in the study.

What will happen if you take part in the study?

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a form at the beginning and end of the school year. These forms will ask about how deeply each student is engaged in their classes at school.

What are the possible benefits of participating in this study?

While there are no immediate benefits for participating in the study, we believe that the knowledge gained from this research may help more students receive arts education in the future.

What are the possible risks of participating in this study?

It is possible that your responses may accidentally be disclosed to program or school staff. However, we will take steps to prevent this from occurring (see below).

Will you be told about new information that may affect your decision to participate?

We will share any new information gained during the course of the study that might affect your willingness to continue participation.

How will your privacy be protected?

All information that is obtained during this project will be labeled with an anonymous identification number, not your name. All research records will be kept on a secure storage server and only members of the research team will have access to those records.

What if you want to stop participating?

You can withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences.

Will you receive anything for participating in this study?

No.

What if you have questions about the study?

You have the right to ask, and have answered, any questions you may have about this research. If there are questions, complaints, or concerns about the study, please contact Dr. Dennie Palmer Wolf at (617) 823-5763 or dennie@wolfbrown.com or Dr. Steven Holochwost at (919) 448-7795 or steven@wolfbrown.com or Dr. Judith Hill Bose at (617)869-5486 or Judith.Hill.Bose@longy.edu.

What if there are questions about your rights as a research participant?

All research on human volunteers is reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If there are questions or concerns about your child's rights as research subjects, you may contact the Dr. Pavlina Tscherneva, Chair of the Bard College Institutional Review Board, at tchernev@bard.edu.

Consent for Participation in Research:

I have read the information provided above and have asked all the questions I have at this time. I voluntarily give consent to participate in this research study.

Printed Name of Research Participant

Signature

Date

***El Sistema* Program Teacher Consent to Participate in a Research Study**

The Longy School of Music of Bard College and WolfBrown, a research firm, are conducting a national study of music education programs based on a model known as *El Sistema*. You have been selected to participate in this study because you teach children in one of these programs.

We are asking if you would participate in this research study. You may refuse or accept. You may also decide to withdraw for any reason without penalty. It is important for you to understand the study so that you can make an informed choice.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this research study is to learn about what *Sistema*-inspired music education programs may do for children. This new information may help these programs, and others like them, improve the quality of the education they offer. It also may help sustain these programs in the long term.

How many people will take part in this study?

We are hoping that between 600 and 800 students at sites across the country will participate in this study.

How long will your part in this study last?

Your participation could require up to approximately 15 minutes per child in both the fall and the spring. The total amount of time will depend on how many children agree to participate in the study.

What will happen if you take part in the study?

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a set of forms at the beginning and end of the school year. These forms will ask about how each student interacts with his/her peers, as well as about each student's history in the program.

What are the possible benefits of participating in this study?

While there are no immediate benefits for participating in the study, we believe that the knowledge gained from this research may help more students receive arts education in the future.

What are the possible risks of participating in this study?

It is possible that your responses may accidentally be disclosed to program or school staff. However, we will take steps to prevent this from occurring (see below).

Will you be told about new information that may affect your decision to participate?

We will share any new information gained during the course of the study that might affect your willingness to continue participation.

How will your privacy be protected?

All information that is obtained during this project will be labeled with an anonymous identification number, not your name. All research records will be kept on a secure storage server and only members of the research team will have access to those records.

What if you want to stop participating?

You can withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences.

Will you receive anything for participating in this study?

No.

What if you have questions about the study?

You have the right to ask, and have answered, any questions you may have about this research. If there are questions, complaints, or concerns about the study, please contact Dr. Dennie Palmer Wolf at (617) 823-5763 or dennie@wolfbrown.com or Dr. Steven Holochwost at (919) 448-7795 or steven@wolfbrown.com or Dr. Judith Hill Bose at (617)869-5486 or Judith.Hill.Bose@longy.edu.

What if there are questions about your rights as research participants?

All research on human volunteers is reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If there are questions or concerns about your child's rights as research subjects, you may contact the Dr. Pavlina Tscherneva, Chair of the Bard College Institutional Review Board, at tchernev@bard.edu.

Consent for Participation in Research:

I have read the information provided above and have asked all the questions I have at this time. I voluntarily give consent to participate in this research study.

Printed Name of Research Participant

Signature

Date

Principal Information Form

Dear Principal [Name]:

The Longy School of Music of Bard College and WolfBrown, a research and evaluation firm, are conducting a national study of music education programs based on a model known as *El Sistema*. Your school has been selected to participate in this study because students at your school attend one of these programs. We would like to invite these students and their classmates to participate in our study. With your permission, we will distribute invitation letters and parental permission forms to students enrolled in second, third, and fourth grade.

Students whose parents provide permission for them to participate in the study will be asked to complete a series of measures designed to assess relationships with their peers, how they see themselves, and what they think about how people learn. For those students who are not enrolled in the music program, these measures will be administered by trained proctors during school time, and would require approximately 30 minutes to complete twice per academic year. Students enrolled in the program would complete these measures as well, but would also be asked to complete a second set of measures during music program time. These measures would also require approximately 30 minutes, twice per academic year. Students' teachers will be asked to complete a brief set of measures for participating students which would require no more than five minutes per student to complete.

The primary risk to students of participating in this study is accidental breach of confidentiality. To guard against this possibility, each student will be assigned a numerical identifier prior to the distribution of measures. The file linking students' names to numerical identifiers will be kept in secure storage offsite. After data entry, the hard copies of measures will be destroyed and the data file will remain de-identified.

The primary benefit from the study is increased understanding of how music education may contribute to the education of the whole child.

We appreciate your consideration in allowing us to pursue this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

[Site Liaison's contact information]

