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***University of Miami***  
**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY**  
***Evaluation of the Ethics Curriculum Project***

This document describes a research study in which you are being asked to participate. Please read the information carefully. At the end, you will be asked if you agree to participate.

**PURPOSE OF STUDY:**

You are being asked to participate in a research study. The purpose of the Ethics Curriculum Project (ECP) is to offer teachers a variety of tools for teaching ethics and introducing character education into their classes. A key goal of this project is to assess the use of specially developed curricula (called “modules” here) to improve ethical reasoning skills.

**PROCEDURES:**

As a participant in this study you will be asked to provide feedback as we assess the utility and quality of content on the project Website ([www.miami.edu/ethics/ecp](http://www.miami.edu/ethics/ecp)).

Once you register and consent to participate in the study, the ethics curriculum content will be made available on the Website. You will be introduced to the materials and given an overview of a number of strategies for using the modules and supporting tools. You will then use the modules and tools with students by asking them to review and interact with the materials. Finally, you will be asked to provide written assessments of students’ classroom experiences using the tools; a questionnaire has been placed on the Ethics Curriculum Project Website for this purpose.

We estimate that the orientation to the Website will take 1 hour and delivering the lesson plans to students and preparing the evaluations will take 2-5 hours. The study team will be available to you for any questions or technical difficulties you have.

**RISKS AND/OR DISCOMFORTS:**

You are very unlikely to experience any risk or discomfort from taking part in this study.

**BENEFITS:**

This is a curriculum evaluation project and we do not anticipate that you will derive any personal benefit from your participation. This project is responsive to a MDCPS need to evaluate efforts to introduce ethics into classroom activities.

If successful, ECP might help teachers to improve the ethical reasoning skills of their students.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is to decline to participate in the project.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:**

All data will be stored in electronic format on a password-protected University of Miami server. The only persons having access to the records will be the PI and Co-PI, and their UM designees. Any data, which might be printed, will be stored behind at least one locked door in a security-monitored UMMSM building.

You will be assigned an individual identification number, but data (your written assessments) will not be linked to your name or that number. Once the data are stored, there will be no way to re-connect your name to your assessment. Your data will in this way have been rendered anonymous.

**COSTS:**

There are no costs associated with your participation in this study.

**COMPENSATION:**

You will receive remuneration of \$250 upon completion of the evaluation materials.

**RIGHT TO DECLINE OR WITHDRAW:**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You are free to refuse to participate in the study or withdraw your consent at any time during the study and neither you nor your school will suffer any negative consequences if you do choose to withdraw.

You may still use the curriculum and other materials even if you decide to decline to participate or withdraw from the study.

The fact that you decline or withdraw will also be kept confidential and not disclosed to anyone, including school system officials or supervisors. You might choose to disclose your participation, however, and we will ask your permission to acknowledge your participation in any published reports; you may choose to decline to give that permission.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Prof. Kenneth Goodman at 305-243-5723 will answer any questions you may have concerning the purpose, procedures, and outcome of this project. If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact Human Subjects Research Office at the University of Miami at (305) 243-3195.

**PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT:**

I have read the information in this consent form and agree to participate in this study. I have had the chance to ask any questions I have about this study, and they have been answered for me. I am entitled to a copy of this form after it has been read.