

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's school is participating in the *Verizon Innovative Learning Schools (VILS)* initiative. As part of this initiative, the Verizon Foundation has contracted with Westat to conduct a multi-year study of the program's impact on teachers and students. A primary goal of this study is to measure the effect of providing middle school students with mobile technology and 24/7 Internet access.

As part of the program your child will be participating in some important data collection activities.

Online Survey: Your child will complete a short survey about his/her use of learning technologies and interest in academic subjects. This survey will be administered during the school day at four points in time: fall of 2019, spring of 2020, spring of 2021, and spring of 2022.

Focus Groups: Your child may also be asked to participate in a focus group in the spring of 2021, where we will discuss the use of tablets. The focus group will be audio recorded to ensure accurate notes. The recording will be deleted at the end of the year.

Classroom Observation: Westat will be observing teaching practices in a sample of classrooms. The purpose is to see how the iPads are being used as part of the instructional process. No data will be collected about individual students who are part of this observation.

Also as part of the study, MCPS will provide de-identified information about your child's attendance, disciplinary actions, end of year grades, and scores on standardized tests for the 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 school years as well as the previous two years.

Information gathered for this study will only be used for research purposes. Your child is not required to participate in this study. These activities are completely voluntary and he/she may stop at any time. No individual information about your child or about your child's classroom will be reported or shared. All information will be kept confidential and your child's participation will not affect your child's grades.

If you have questions about the implementation or MCPS' involvement, or your child's rights as a participant, you may contact Dr. Kara Trenkamp, director, Department of Technology Integration and Learning Management Systems.

Please complete and sign below indicating agreement to allow your child to participate in the *VILS* Initiative study.

Please check ONE box below:

Yes, I agree to allow my child to participate in surveys and focus groups for the *VILS* Initiative study.

No, I do not consent for my child to participate in surveys and focus groups for the *VILS* Initiative study.

Child's Name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date (MM/DD/YY)

Parent/Guardian Name (Please print)

Relationship to child