

Letter of Information for Parents and Students

Utah STEM Action Center, Utah Education Policy Center, Utah Valley University
K-12 Math Personalized Learning Software Research Study

Dear Parent,

The Utah STEM Action Center has asked the Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah to conduct a statewide evaluation study on personalized math learning software. The results of this study will be used to improve the personalized math learning software program. Because your child's school participates in this program, your child may be asked to participate in this study. This letter provides information about the study as well as an option to decline to have your child participate.

BACKGROUND

The goal of the research study is to understand how teachers are using the software and assess the impact of the software on student math interest and learning.

STUDY PROCEDURE

Your child will be asked to complete an online questionnaire about his or her experience with the math software. The questionnaire will be completed during school and will take approximately 10 minutes.

In addition, the math software vendors will provide usage data to the Utah Education Policy Center. These data will provide information about how much time each child spent on the math software. The Utah Education Policy Center will match usage data to demographic data and math performance on end-of-level tests. This will allow us to evaluate the impact of the software on student math performance.

Teachers will be asked to provide information about their opinions of the math software and their use of the software.

RISKS/BENEFITS

There are minimal risks to your child, besides discomfort associated with responding to a questionnaire. There are no direct benefits to your child for participating in this study. However, the overall goal of this study is to learn how to improve math instruction that uses personalized math learning software, which may benefit your child in the future. In addition, your child may appreciate the opportunity to voice their opinions.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

At no time will your child or your child's data be personally identified by the researchers. All data will be used solely for this project.

The Utah Education Policy Center (UEPC) considers the security and protection of data to be of the utmost importance. Encrypted data are stored on secure hardware, maintained by highly trained computer professionals, and safeguarded by the University of Utah's network security, Virtual Private Network (VPN), and firewall. The UEPC protects data in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S. Code §1232g and 34 CFR Part 99 ("FERPA"), the Government Records and Management Act U.C.A. §62G- 2 ("GRAMA"), U.C.A. §53A-1-1401 et seq, 15 U.S. Code §§ 6501-6506 ("COPPA") and Utah Administrative Code R277-487 ("Student Data Protection Act"). Once the project

ends, all data will be sanitized and destroyed following the guideline of the University of Utah and the Federal regulations.

PERSON TO CONTACT

If you have questions, complaints, or concerns about this study, or if you feel you have been harmed by this research, please contact Dr. Stacy Eddings at stacy.eddings@utah.edu.

Institutional Review Board: Contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) if you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant. Also, contact the IRB if you have questions, complaints or concerns which you do not feel you can discuss with the investigator. The University of Utah IRB may be reached by phone at (801) 581-3655 or by e-mail at irb@hsc.utah.edu.

Research Participant Advocate: You may also contact the Research Participant Advocate (RPA) by phone at (801) 581-3803 or by email at participant.advocate@hsc.utah.edu.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can choose for your child not to take part. Your child will be given the choice to participate or not when the questionnaire is administered. Your child can also choose to skip questions or discontinue the questionnaire at any time. Declining to participate will not affect your child’s relationship with his or her teachers, school, or the researchers.

OPT-OUT FORM

Decline Participation – Parent

I do not wish to have my child participate in this evaluation study.

Child’s First and Last Name
(Please Print)

Parent/Guardian’s Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian’s Name

Relationship to Child for Parent/Guardian

Decline Participation – Student

I do not wish to participate in this evaluation study.

Student’s First and Last Name (Please Print)

Signature of Student

Date