



Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am Carmela Amato-Wierda, Associate Professor of Materials Science at the University of New Hampshire. I am also the lead of [NH CREATES](#), a program funded by the National Institutes of Health, designed to help build a skilled workforce for New Hampshire's growing regenerative medicine and biotechnology industries. We provide teachers with free project-based professional development in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Your child's teacher took part in this professional development.

We are doing a research study to see how well our program works to improve STEM teaching and get students interested in STEM topics through project-based learning (UNH IRB-FY2021-70). Our research team includes me; Amy Booth, NH CREATES Project Director; and Alison Allen and Eleanor Jaffee, NH CREATES evaluation and research consultants. We are inviting your child to join the study. We plan to invite around 750 students to take part.

This consent form describes the study and helps you to decide if you want your child to participate. It provides important information about what your child will be asked to do in the study, about the risks and benefits of participating in the study, and about your child's rights as a research participant. You should:

- Read the information in this document carefully, and ask me or the research personnel any questions, particularly if you do not understand something.
- Not agree to allow your child to participate until all your questions have been answered, or until you are sure that you want to.
- Understand that your child's participation in this study involves them taking a brief (10-15 minute) survey during class time.

If you allow your child to participate in this study, your child will be asked to take a brief (10-15 minute) Google Forms survey during class. Neither you nor your child will receive any compensation for participating. Even though your child will not get direct benefits, what we learn could help other students in our state and beyond by making STEM teaching better.



Taking part in this study is voluntary. If you do not allow your child to participate, neither you nor your child will experience any penalty or negative consequences. It will not affect your child's class grade or standing in any way. If you do allow your child to participate, your child may still refuse to answer any question or refuse to participate at all. If you allow your child to participate and your child wants to, and then either you change your mind or your child changes their mind, you may withdraw your child, or your child may withdraw, at any time during the study without penalty. Any data already collected as part of your child's participation will remain part of the study records.

We will be collecting identifiers at the classroom level only for this study: the school district, school, teacher, class subject(s), and grade level(s). We will NOT be collecting any individual student identifiers. However, any communication via the internet poses minimal risk of a breach of confidentiality. To help protect the confidentiality of your child's information, we will keep all electronic files in USNH Microsoft 365 secure cloud storage accessible only to the research team. We will report the survey results in aggregate (all grouped together). While we may name participating schools in our program stakeholder evaluation reports, we will not identify any individuals, schools, or districts in public research reports. Research reports may include journal publications and conference presentations. De-identified data (data without any information that could show who your child is) may also be used for future studies.

If you have any questions about this research study or would like more information before, during, or after the study, you may contact Eleanor Jaffee, NH CREATES research consultant, at eleanor.jaffee@unh.edu. If you have questions about your child's rights as a research participant, you may contact Melissa McGee in UNH Research Integrity Services at 603-862-2005 or melissa.mcgee@unh.edu to discuss them.

If you DO allow your child to participate in the survey, there is no action to take. If you do NOT allow your child to participate in the survey, please submit the opt-out form sent by your child's teacher. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Carmela Amato-Wierda