

Protocol Number: \_\_\_\_\_



California State University, East Bay  
Integrated Middle School Science Project  
Teacher Consent Form



Surveys, Lesson Studies and Classroom Videotapes

Investigators: \*Dr. Jeff Seitz, College of Science, \*Dr. Michele Korb, College of Education and Allied Studies, \*Dr. Rachele DiStefano, Center for Science Education Director (CSUEB), Dr. Robert Curtis, Alameda County Office of Education (\*CSU – East Bay).

Dear colleague-

Educators at CSU East Bay, County Offices of Education, local Pre-K-12 districts and other agencies have joined in a partnership to improve science education. The National Science Foundation is supporting this grant because of our intent to study professional collaboration between and among these partners. As you know, this IMSS Project includes elements of a research study to investigate changes in teacher content knowledge and pedagogical shifts related to science in the middle school classroom. This study will also examine shifts in community collaboration in the form of lesson studies on exemplary science lessons.

Grants for science professional development have improved science learning for teachers and students over the short term, but have not always been sustained after the life of the grant. Our goal is to strengthen all organizations that teach science and improve their capacity to sustain science learning over time.

Your participation in the data gathering is part of this grant and is an explicit way to improve your science knowledge and pedagogy. You are an essential part of the data collection and analysis as it informs your practice. During the scheduled Professional Learning Community/ Lesson Study times (times devised and agreed upon by you and your peers in cooperation with CSU- East Bay faculty and science coaches, which would be at least once a quarter), and during the 2-week summer institute at CSU-East Bay, you will be asked to complete: 1) a science content assessment (30 minutes), 2) a science attitude survey (15 minutes), 3) short interviews (during lesson studies within the allotted 90 minute meeting time as part of your normal collaborative time) to document the ways your organization supports science learning (also during your normal collaborative time), and 4) classroom observations (2-3 times per school year as part of your regularly scheduled lesson study), utilizing a standardized and valid inquiry rubric, and videotapes that will be assessed by you and the research team to improve science pedagogy.

There is some risk in that you will be asked to characterize prior and current partnerships and make judgments about the current status of your organization (e.g., staffing concerns, budget shortfalls that limit the organization's ability to staff positions). Your responses will be kept confidential within the immediate staff (IMSS external evaluator, lead researchers, school-based coaches). Identifying information about teachers, university departments, and agencies will be coded to protect participants' identity. All data moving beyond the grant office will have identifying information removed. Any data generated from dialogues, interviews, surveys and concept inventories will not identify teacher names.

Data will not be used to evaluate teachers (either individually or in groups), or to evaluate school-level or district-level administrators, or to evaluate schools, or to evaluate your district, or to evaluate any other school districts. The CSU system and CSU East Bay does not now, nor will it in the future, engage in such evaluations.

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A copy of this consent letter will be given to you and a second one kept in the IMSS grant office located in the Center for Science Education, College of Science, South Science Building, Room S142, at California State University East Bay, Hayward Campus. Please direct any questions or express concerns to Michele Korb, Co-Principal Investigator, IMSS Project (Cell: 414-339-0593) or to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at CSU- East Bay (Office: 510-885-4212). Please indicate your consent to participate below:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_