

Student Assent Form

Title of Study: Evaluation of the ASPIRA Leadership Program

Why am I here?

We are conducting an evaluation of the ASPIRA leadership course. Some students have taken the course, while others may not. We want to know what are the interests of students and if such a course makes a difference in their lives. As a result, we would like to ask you several questions about the attitudes of students like you. Also, for those who have taken the course, we would like your opinions about the program to help make the program better for other students. Your views are very important to us.

Why are they doing the study?

The study is being conducted to find out what you like about the ASPIRA leadership program and how important such a course might be helpful for students like you. There is much we can learn from you and your classmates. We believe you can also provide good ideas for us to consider and maybe add to the program to make it stronger.

What will happen to me?

It is likely that one of your teachers or an ASPIRA advisor will help administer the student questionnaire. This will only take about 15 minutes. Most likely, the questionnaire will be administered in a classroom, where you and other classmates will respond to the questionnaire. You do not have to answer any questions you do not like. For some students, we may also come back and ask follow-up questions about the program, but in a smaller group setting. This will be like a discussion group where we ask you questions about the program together with other students who may have also taken the course. Always know that you can ask questions about anything you do not understand.

How long will I be in the study?

We will probably only ask you to participate in a written questionnaire and a group session for each year you might be enrolled in the program.

Will the study help me?

We cannot promise that answering our questions will help you directly, but the information you provide may help other students like you in the future.

Do my parents know about this?

We will explain the study to your parents (or guardian) in an agreement they will have to sign. For you to participate in the study, your parents must agree (consent) to your participation. You must also agree, independent of your parents, if you want to participate. It is OK if you do not want to participate.

What about confidentiality?

We will keep your information private and no one will know how you respond. To ensure anonymity, we won't be asking your name, so no one will know what you say.

What if I have any questions?

For questions about the study you can contact the ASPIRA representative at your school or Abdín Nobao, Ph.D., at Innovative Consultants International, Inc. (ICI, Inc.). He is the Principal Investigator

of the study. You can reach his office at (202) 380-3091. You can also contact Cely Argueta, research coordinator for the program. She can be reached at the same number. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, they will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Do I have to be in the study?

You do not have to be in the study if you prefer not to participate. You can also stop the questionnaire at any time. Also, you don't have to answer any question on the questionnaire (or later in the small group session) that makes you feel uncomfortable. Please know that no one will be angry or disappointed if you decide to stop being a participant in the study.

AGREEMENT TO BE IN THE STUDY

Your signature below means that you have read the above information about the study and have had a chance to ask questions to help you understand what you will do in the study. Your signature also means that you have been told that you can change your mind later and withdraw when you want. You will be given a copy of this form.

Signature of Student Participant (10 yrs & older)

Date

Printed name of Student Participant (10 yrs & older)