



Principal Investigator: Janice McDonnell  
Project Title: Polar-ICE/SCI-I  
IRB Approval and Date: Protocol #E16-003, July 14, 2015

### **Polar-ICE Parent Consent Form**

Your child has the opportunity to be part of Project Polar-ICE/SCI-I, a year-long partnership between your child's classroom and teacher along with scientists conducting research on topics related to the polar regions. As part of the project your child is invited to be in the accompanying research evaluation study of Polar-ICE/SCI-I, which aims to understand how the teachers and students benefit from exploring scientific questions using data. S/he was selected because s/he is in the 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade classroom of a participating teacher in Project Polar-ICE/SCI-I. Please read this form. Ask any questions you may have before agreeing for your child to take part in this study.

Janice McDonnell is conducting this study. The study is funded by the National Science Foundation.

#### **Background Information**

The purpose of the research study accompanying aims to measure the impact of exposing teachers and students to polar data, data activities, and lesson plans with the hope of developing skills in how to use real world scientific data explore scientific questions about the polar regions with the ultimate goal of engaging students in STEM.

#### **Procedures**

If you agree for your child to be in this study, your child will:

1. Complete a pre-survey in his/her classroom at the start of the project regarding engagement in and identification with science that we estimate will take 20 minutes to complete (Fall 2016);
2. Complete a post-survey in his/her classroom at the completion of the project regarding engagement in and identification with science that we estimate will take 20 minutes to complete (Spring 2017).

#### **Risks and Benefits**

The risk in this study is no greater than the risks experienced in daily life or activities. There is no foreseeable risk to participation in this study.

The benefit in this study may be an increase in the understanding of how students learn about the process of science to better provide authentic science experiences for students. Your child may receive no direct benefit from taking part in this study.

#### **Payment/Rewards**

Your child will not receive any payment or rewards for taking part in this study.

#### **Anonymity**

This research is anonymous. Anonymous means that we will record no information about your child that could identify your child. If you agree for your child to take part in the study, your child will be assigned a random letter/number code that will be used on each survey. Your child's name will not be linked to the letter/number code that is assigned to him/her. There will be no way to link your child's responses back to him/her. Therefore, data collection is anonymous.

The survey responses for this study will be kept private. Information used in any written or presented report will not make it possible to identify your child. Only research team and the Institutional Review Board at Rutgers University



will have access to the survey responses. Research records will be kept in a locked file. Records will be kept for a minimum of three years. Then they will be destroyed by shredding.

**Taking Part is Voluntary**

Your child's participation is voluntary. Your decision for your child to participate or not participate will not affect your current or future relations with the investigators or your child's teacher. It will not affect your relations with Rutgers University. You may withdraw your child at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. To withdraw, you must tell your child's teacher who will inform the investigators. Shredding will then destroy your child's information.

**Contacts and Questions**

The investigators conducting this study are Kristin Hunter-Thomson, Janice McDonnell, and Pamela Van Dyk. You may ask questions now or later. If you have questions later, you may contact the researcher at mcdonnel@marine.rutgers.edu or 848-932-3281. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the IRB Administrator at Rutgers University at: Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey

Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects  
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
3 Rutgers Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8559  
Tel: 848-932-0150; Email: humansubjects@orsp.rutgers.edu

You will be given a copy of this consent form for your records.

\_\_\_ I have read the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers (if applicable). I **do NOT consent** for my child to participate in this study by signing below and returning this form to my child's teacher.

\_\_\_ I have read the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers (if applicable). I **consent** for my child to participate in this study by signing below and returning this form to my child's teacher:

Parent/Guardian (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Investigator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This informed consent form was approved by the Rutgers University Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects on July 14, 2015 (Protocol #: E16-003); Currently, there is no expiration on the approval of this form.*