

**Consent to Participate in a Research Study**  
**An Investigation of Online Professional Development**

You are being invited to take part in a research study about the efficacy of professional development provided to preservice and inservice teachers who have or will have English language learners in their classes. If you take part in this study, you will be one of about 500 people to do so. The person in charge of this study is Dr. Eleni Pappamihel (PI) of the University of North Carolina Wilmington. No one associated with this study stands to gain financially or personally.

Professional development is becoming more complex and the efficacy of this process is not yet fully understood. By studying the process of professional development, especially related to English language learners we hope to learn more about how different technologies and pedagogies can be effectively employed in professional development and how teachers can gain more benefit from professional development

Data will be collected for this study through online surveys and assignments associated with the professional development and courses you will complete. All identifying information will be stripped before the analysis begins. This study is funded by the ELMS grant. Prior to your participation in the grant you were asked to sign an agreement in which you made a general agreement to participate in research related to the grant. However, your participation in this study is completely voluntary, and your grade will not be affected by your choice to participate in this study. However, if you do not wish to participate in the research related to the grant you will be responsible for reimbursing the grant expenses. All data will be analyzed in a confidential manner. While your responses will be collected with your name attached, your name will be removed once the data analysis process begins. Your name will never be associated with the data collected for this study after it is transferred into the data pool. Data will be collected during the time you are actively involved in the grant professional development. You may be asked to allow observers into your classroom after that time, but you may refuse to allow this with no financial penalty associated with grant participation.

There are no known risks associated with participation in this study. You will be completing assignments as you would for any other professional development. You will not get any personal benefit from taking part in this study beyond what you have already received through your participation in the professional development program. You will be eligible for any financial compensation associated with your level of participation in the grant. This has been outlined in the grant agreement that you have signed. We hope that all teachers will benefit through improved online professional development Information you share in your responses will only be seen by the research team, but we hope to publish the results of this study. Therefore, your responses may be quoted in future articles. Most of the data you provide will be combined with all the other participants. This study is confidential. That means that no one, outside the members of the research team, will know that the information you gave came from you.

Before you decide whether or not to participate in the study, please ask any questions that come to mind now. Later, if you have questions about the study, you can contact the Principal Investigator, Drs. Eleni Pappamihel at 962-2746. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, contact Dr. Candace Gauthier, Chair of the UNCW Institutional Review Board, at 910-962-3558. The research team is required by federal law to provide you with a copy of this informed consent form.

By signing this document, you agree to participate in this study.

*I may request a copy of the project summary or final report. I understand that my participation in this research study is entirely voluntary. I may refuse to participate without penalty or loss of benefits. I may also stop participating at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. Upon request, I can receive a copy of this consent form to take home with me.*

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Date