

Informed Consent Form

Seton Hall University
Institutional Review Board
MAR 27 2025
Approval Date
Expiration Date
MAR 27 2026

Title of Research Study: Project WILLD, Field Test 4 – Implementation Survey

Principal Investigator: Anthony D. Koutsoftas, PhD, CCC-SLP, Associate Professor

Department Affiliation: Department of Speech Language Pathology, School of Health and Medical Sciences, Seton Hall University, Nutley, NJ

Sponsor: This research is supported by a development and innovation grant from the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education (Grant #: R324A200046).

Brief summary about this research study:

The following summary of this research study is to help you decide whether or not you want to participate in the study. You have the right to ask questions at any time. The purpose of this study is to obtain feedback on the implementation of Project WILLD lesson plans, which you will be provided with access should you enroll in the study. You will be asked to complete a screening and enrollment survey to determine if you meet the study's inclusion criteria. You will be asked to include your preferred email address which will be used to provide access to Project WILLD intervention materials. These will be available on a password protected webpage and include 21 lesson plans and additional resources including an overview and instructional video. Your e-mail address will also be used to send quarterly surveys about your implementation of the Project WILLD intervention. As part of each survey, you will be asked if you would like to participate in a follow-up interview about your implementation, this is optional. There is no more than minimal risk of participation in this study, this includes the transmission of data via an online survey platform (Qualtrics) and via e-mail correspondence. The main benefit of participation is access to Project WILLD intervention materials to support struggling writers using accepted educational practices.

Purpose of the research study:

You are being asked to take part in this research study because you are a state licensed general educator, special educator, or speech-language pathologist working with elementary school children who are struggling with informative paragraph writing. Your participation in this research study is expected to be for one year; however, the time you spend implementing lesson plans is at your discretion. The required components of the study include a screening and enrollment survey (10 minutes), and four implementation and feedback surveys (15 minutes each) sent every three months from enrollment for up to one year. Follow-up interviews are optional and would be scheduled at a mutually agreed time via Teams teleconferencing software (20 to 30 minutes per interview). You will be one of 50 people who are expected to participate in this research study.

What you will be asked to do:

Your participation in this research study will include:

- Complete a Screening & Enrollment Survey (10 minutes) which can be accessed through the Project WILLD Website (<https://blogs.shu.edu/willd/implementation-survey/>). This survey will ask questions about your demographic and educational background, and with whom you plan to use the Project WILLD intervention materials. The survey will be used to determine that you meet the study's inclusion criteria which is that you must be a state licensed general educator, special educator, or speech-language pathologist working with elementary students who struggle with writing.

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- As part of the survey, you will be asked to provide your preferred e-mail address which will be used for the remaining study activities.
- If it is determined that you meet the study's inclusion criteria, you will receive an email with instructions and a link to access the Project WILLD intervention materials through a password protected webpage.
- The intervention materials include 21 lesson plans and additional resources including an overview and instructional video. You can access as frequently as you choose, for the duration of the study.
- You will receive quarterly implementation and feedback surveys about your experience using the Project WILLD intervention materials. These will be sent via email every three months from enrollment for one year, for a total of four surveys each taking approximately 15 minutes.
- As part of each survey, you will be asked if you would like to participate in a follow-up interview, this is optional. If you choose to participate, the interview will take place via Teams videoconferencing software at a mutually agreed upon time, for approximately 20 minutes. Questions include opportunities to provide more detailed feedback about using the materials, including suggestions for changes to the materials.
- At the end of the study, you will no longer have access to the intervention materials.

Your rights to participate, say no or withdraw:

Participation in research is voluntary. You can decide to participate or not to participate. You can choose to participate in the research study now and then decide to leave the research at any time. Your choice will not be held against you. The person in charge of the research study can remove you from the research study without your approval. Possible reasons for removal include non-compliance with the study procedures.

Potential benefits:

There may be no direct benefit to you from this study. However, possible benefits may include access to the Project WILLD intervention materials that can be used as part of accepted educational practices.

Potential risks:

The risks associated with this study are minimal in nature. Your participation in this research includes completing web-based surveys and e-mail correspondence.

Confidentiality and privacy:

Efforts will be made to limit the use or disclosure of your personal information. This information may include the research study documents or other source documents used for the purpose of conducting the study. These documents include spreadsheets generated from Qualtrics surveys completed over the course of the study. We cannot promise complete secrecy. Organizations that oversee research safety may inspect and copy your information. This includes the Seton Hall University Institutional Review Board who oversees the safe and ethical conduct of research at this institution. This survey is hosted on Qualtrics, an online survey program, and involves a secure connection. Terms of service, addressing confidentiality, may be viewed at <https://www.qualtrics.com/support/survey-platform/getting-started/data-protection-privacy/>. Upon receiving results of your survey, any possible identifiers will be deleted by the investigator. Your email address, which will be used to send surveys and schedule interviews (should you opt in) will be removed from your survey data at the close of the study. All

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information will be kept on a password protected computer only accessible by the research team. The results of the research study may be published, but your name will not be used. The study is funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education and they might request access to the research data for audit purposes.

Data sharing: De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community at large to advance knowledge. We will remove or code any personal information that could identify you before files are shared with other researchers to ensure that, by current scientific standards and known methods, no one will be able to identify you from the information we share. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee anonymity of your personal data.

Cost and compensation: There is no payment for your time to participate in this study.

Conflict of interest disclosure: The principal investigator and research team have a financial conflict of interest to report. The following disclosure is made to give you an opportunity to decide if the listed financial relationship will affect your willingness to participate in this research study. This research is funded through a U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences grant (Grant #: R324A200046) from which the research team's partial salary is paid.

Contact information: If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about this research project, you can contact the principal investigator, Anthony D. Koutsoftas, PhD, CCC-SLP at anthony.koutsoftas@shu.edu, or the Seton Hall University Institutional Review Board ("IRB") at (973) 761-9334 or irb@shu.edu.

You will be asked if you consent to participate in this research study as the first question of the Screening & Enrollment survey. By responding yes, your informed consent to participate in the study is implied.