

CONSENT TO TAKE PART IN A RESEARCH STUDY

TITLE OF STUDY: MTA ESP Survey

Principal Investigator: Rebecca Givan, Ph.D

This consent form is part of an informed consent process for a research study and it will provide information that will help you decide whether you want to take part in this study. It is your choice to take part or not. After all of your questions have been answered and you wish to take part in the research study, you will be asked to sign this consent form. You will have the opportunity to print a copy of the signed form. Your alternative to taking part in the research is not to take part in it.

Who is conducting this research study and what is it about?

You are being asked to take part in research conducted by the Massachusetts Teachers Association. The purpose of this study is to understand the issues that our paraprofessional members face and to help us build a stronger union for all members.

What will I be asked to do if I take part?

The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

What are the risks I might experience if I take part in the study?

There are no risks associated with participation in this survey. All data will be kept confidential (see below).

Are there any benefits to me if I choose to take part in this study?

You will be contributing to knowledge that will help build a stronger union for all members.

Will I be paid to take part in this study?

You will not be paid to take part in this study.

How will information about me be kept private or confidential?

All efforts will be made to keep your responses confidential. MTA staff as well as staff from Rutgers University will be engaged to analyze participant data. We will use Survey Monkey to collect and forward your anonymous responses to us. Your name and contact information will not be linked to your survey responses. We will download your responses to a secure file that requires a password to access. Only study staff will have access to the password. There is no plan to delete the responses. We plan to study the data for some time.

What will happen to information I provide in the research after the study is over?

After information that could identify you has been removed, de-identified responses may be used by or distributed to investigators for other research without obtaining additional informed consent from you.

What will happen if I do not want to take part or decide later not to stay in the study?

Your participation is voluntary. Participation will in no way affect your employment or union membership status. In addition, you can choose to skip questions that you do not wish to answer. However, once you finish the form, your responses cannot be withdrawn as we will not know which ones are yours.

Who can I call if I have questions?

If you have questions about taking part in this study, you can contact the MTA ESP Organizer Audra Makuch at 617-878-8260 or Rebecca Givan at Rutgers University at 848-932-2030.

Please print out this consent form if you would like a copy for your files.