

## Consent Form for Participation in Research

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**Study Title:** IRB-FY2025-111 - Racism and Racial Bullying in Public Schools (*Parents, Teachers, and Administrators*)

**Co-Principal Investigators:** Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman and Jenifer Bratter, Department of Sociology, Rice University, [eh101@rice.edu](mailto:eh101@rice.edu) and [jb1@rice.edu](mailto:jb1@rice.edu)

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Participant's ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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You may be eligible to take part in a research study. This form gives you important information about the study. It describes the purpose of the research, the risks and possible benefits of participating in the study.

### **Concise and Focused Presentation**

The purpose of the study is to examine racism and racial bullying in public schools to better understand its impact and identify ways to improve school environments. Parents, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to participate because their experiences and insights are vital for shaping solutions that promote inclusivity and fairness in schools. Participation is voluntary, meaning participants can choose whether or not to take part. If they agree, they may be asked to participate in interviews and/or focus groups.

**Risks** - There is a risk that discussing these topics may bring up uncomfortable or distressing feelings, but support will be provided. The risk is minimal.

**Benefits** - The benefit is that your feedback can help bring awareness to an important issue and contribute to positive change in their school community.

**Voluntariness** - Parents, teachers or administrators can also decline to participate or withdraw at any time without any negative consequences.

### **Purpose of this Study**

The purpose of the study is to collect interviews from parents, teachers, and administrators at public schools to examine if and how bullying and racism are present in public schools. We will collect interviews and observations from parents, teachers, and administrators in selected schools. By doing so, we will better understand how racism and racial bullying manifests, how it affects students, and what role school policies and staff play in addressing or perpetuating these behaviors. The research will gather first-hand accounts through interviews with parents, teachers, and administrators who may have witnessed or experienced racism and racial bullying, as well as with teachers and administrators who observe how these incidents unfold and how they are handled. Additionally,

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direct observations in the school environment will provide insight into the day-to-day dynamics and culture surrounding race and bullying.

By participating, parents, teachers, and administrators will have the opportunity to share their experiences, contributing valuable insights to help develop more effective strategies and improve school policies. The study seeks to inform interventions that foster safer, more inclusive school climates for all students, particularly those from marginalized racial backgrounds.

Parents, teachers, and administrators may choose whether or not to be part of the study, and they can withdraw from it at any time without any negative consequences. No one will be penalized for choosing not to participate, and all personal information shared will be kept confidential.

### **Procedures / What will happen to me in this study?**

The research procedures for this study will involve a combination of preliminary screening questions, interviews, observations, and review of school policies related to bullying and racial equity. The study may be conducted at selected schools, with the participation of students, teachers, and administrators.

**Interviews/focus groups:** Individual or group interviews will be conducted with parents whose children have witnessed or experienced racism and/or racial bullying. These interviews will focus on the parents' experiences, how they perceive the school's response to bullying, and their suggestions for improving the school environment. Interviews will last approximately **60-90 minutes** and will be scheduled at convenient times for participants. The interviews will be audio-recorded (with participants' consent) to ensure accuracy in capturing their insights. Participation is confidential, and no personal identifiers will be used in the final reports. Only interviews will be conducted with teachers and administrators – no focus groups will be conducted with this group.

**Observations:** Researchers may conduct observations in PTO meetings and informal school settings for parents to examine interactions between parents, teachers, and administrators. These observations will focus on identifying instances of racism and racial bullying, the context in which they occur, and how they are handled by parents, teachers, and administrators. Researchers will take detailed notes during these observations while maintaining a discreet presence to avoid disruption.

**Location:** Interviews may be collected virtually, at parents' home, or at a community/university location agreed upon by the parent (library, community center, etc.)

**Initial data may be collected through a preliminary screening form.** If selected for further interviews, Audio recordings will be collected and transcribed, but no identifiable names will be included. They will be used to ensure we have an accurate account of students' responses. All participants will be informed of their rights, including the ability to withdraw from the study at any time. Anonymity will

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be ensured in all published reports, and no personal identifying information will be shared with others.

**Number of Participants:** We anticipate collected interviews from 30 parents and 30 teachers/administrators. This will ensure that students' responses cannot be easily linked back to them.

### **Participant Requirements**

We will ask parents of all backgrounds to participate in this study provided they meet the requirements (willingness to speak about racism and gender, familiarity with racism and racial bullying, children in relevant grades, etc.)

### **Sharing and Future Research Studies with Identifiable Private Information:**

Information that identifies you may be removed from your identifiable private information collected as part of this research, and after such removal, your information may be used for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without additional consent/authorization from you.

### **Risks**

The risks and discomfort associated with participation in this study are no greater than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during casual conversations about these topics with family and/or friends. Parents, teachers, and administrators may experience minimal risks and discomfort associated with participation in this study. They may experience emotional discomfort as they share painful experiences that they or students may have had in the school setting. Support and resources will be made available to help manage any emotional responses that arise during participation. Every effort will be made to maintain the confidentiality of participants, but there is a small risk that personal information may be unintentionally disclosed. This could occur if identifiable details are accidentally revealed during interviews or during data analysis.

### **Benefits**

The benefits of this study include contributing to a greater understanding of the complexities of racism and racial bullying and helping schools develop more comprehensive policies and practices that promote racial justice and equity. This research may lead to improved support systems for students and staff and influence broader educational reforms.

### **Compensation & Costs**

No compensation will be provided for the completion of the online screening survey. Participants selected to interview will be given a \$30 gift card. If eligible for the study, participants will be paid for their participation even if the participant does not complete the study. There will be no cost to you if you participate in this study.

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### Ending the Your Participation

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are free to refuse to be in the study and your refusal will not influence current or future relationships with Rice University and participating sites.

### Confidentiality

By participating in the study, you understand and agree that Rice University may be required to disclose your consent form, data and other personally identifiable information as required by law, regulation, subpoena or court order. Otherwise, your confidentiality will be maintained in the following manner:

Your data and consent form will be kept separate. Your consent form will be stored in a locked location on Rice University property and will not be disclosed to third parties. By participating, you understand and agree that the data and information gathered during this study may be used by Rice University and published and/or disclosed by Rice University to others outside of Rice University. However, your name, address, contact information and other direct personal identifiers in your consent form will not be mentioned by Rice University in any such publication or dissemination of the research data and/or results.

In addition to measures taken above, The researchers will take the following steps to protect participants' identities during this study: (1) Each participant will be assigned a number; (2) The researchers will record any data collected during the study by number, not by name; (3) Any original recordings or data files will be stored in a secured location accessed only by authorized researchers; (4) Location of interviews will be selected in ways that ensure privacy. (5) We will use pseudonyms in the publications of future research. (6) Audio recordings will be destroyed after they have been transcribed.

### Optional Permission

I understand that the researchers may want to use audio recording for illustrative reasons in presentations of this work for scientific or educational purposes. I give my permission to do so provided that my name and face will not appear.

YES  NO (Please initial here \_\_\_\_\_)

### Rights

Your participation is voluntary. You are free to stop your participation at any point. Refusal to participate or withdrawal of your consent or discontinued participation in the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits or rights to which you might otherwise be entitled. The Principal Investigator may at his/her discretion remove you from the study for any of a number of reasons. In such an event, you will not suffer any penalty or loss of benefits or rights which you might otherwise be entitled.

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### Right to Ask Questions & Contact Information

If you have any questions about this study, you should feel free to ask them now.

If you have questions later regarding the study or a research-related injury, or if you have complaints, concerns, suggestions about the research, desire additional information, or wish to withdraw your participation please contact the Principal Investigator by mail, phone or e-mail in accordance with the contact information listed on the first page of this consent.

For questions about your rights as a research participant, or to discuss problems, concerns or suggestions related to the research, or to obtain information or offer input about the research, you should contact an IRB Compliance Administrator at Rice University. Email: [irb@rice.edu](mailto:irb@rice.edu) or Telephone: 713-348-4820.

### Conflict of Interest

To manage potential conflicts of interest, two of the researchers who have children enrolled in HISD schools will refrain from conducting interviews in the specific schools their children attend. This ensures impartiality and maintains the integrity of the research process.

### Voluntary Consent

By signing below, you agree that the above information has been explained to you and all your current questions have been answered. You understand that you may ask questions about any aspect of this research study during the course of the study and in the future. By signing this form, you agree to participate in this research study.

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PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE

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DATE

I certify that I have explained the nature and purpose of this research study to the above individual and I have discussed the potential benefits and possible risks of participation in the study. Any questions the individual has about this study have been answered and any future questions will be answered as they arise.

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SIGNATURE OF PERSON OBTAINING CONSENT

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DATE