

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Many students have relationships with supportive adults who care about their success. These include grandparents, coaches, mentors, and family friends. However, schools are prohibited from communicating with these supporters for several reasons, not the least of which is FERPA. This project involves guardians identifying supporters within their students' pre-existing support "team" to receive frequent, actionable, and personalized communications about the students' educational activities. These communications duplicate what the parents receive (e.g., report cards) and also include additional messages that invite and empower the supporters to be more involved in the students' academic lives. The goal is to increase student success by turning students' social networks into a social support system.

The district is partnering with Professor Todd Rogers at the Harvard Kennedy School and his research team to run this research program, study its effect, and learn more about how to effectively engage and empower student support systems. The research team will randomly assign supporters to either an intervention group or a comparison group. Supporters in the intervention group will receive communications via text, email, and/or mail. These supporters may receive information about the student's grades, attendance, school behavior, exam schedules, and school events. Supporters in the comparison group will not receive these communications. This project will not reduce the amount of information guardians receive about their children.

SIGNING UP

Participation is voluntary. In order to participate, a student's legal guardian must complete and sign a consent form –either on paper or online (available in English and Spanish). Paper forms can be distributed through methods most convenient to school staff.

Paper consent forms may be returned: to the school office, by U.S. mail, or by emailing or texting a picture of the completed form. Directions for return are included on the form.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- When you connect with families, provide them with a consent form or tell them about the website.
- If families have questions, direct them to the website, email address, or phone number listed below.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Emily Bloomenthal, *My Student's Team* project manager

(984)-212-7094

MyStudentsTeam_WakeCounty@hks.harvard.edu

www.MyStudentsTeam.org/WakeCounty