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Educational Testing Service

Rosedale Road
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**Reading for Understanding: Large Scale Study
Grades 4-12**

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child's class is being asked to participate in a research study designed to improve existing reading comprehension tests. The study is run by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and is part of a project called the Reading for Understanding Initiative, which is funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (for more information visit http://www.ets.org/research/topics/reading_for_understanding/). As part of the study, your child will take computerized reading tests that measure basic reading skills and comprehension during the school day that will last one class period. We are working with the school to ensure no classwork will be missed. These tests are based on the latest research in reading and learning. Your child will be among the first students to experience a new kind of reading comprehension test that directly relates to the most current standards in reading education.

The reading comprehension tests are computer-based and scenario-driven—that is, there is a plausible *purpose* for reading that guides all test activities. For example, a student might be asked to imagine that he or she is a part of a study group that is preparing for an upcoming test. All of the activities—summarizing text, identifying key ideas, paraphrasing—relate to the purpose and model the kinds of strategic reading behaviors that skilled readers use every day. The assessments take 30-45 minutes. Our intention is to integrate the latest research in cognitive science, reading and learning to create assessments that are more useful for teachers and more engaging for students. The data that we collect from the study will be used to shape and improve future tests.

Any personally identifiable information will be kept confidential and separate from the test results. No teachers or school personnel will see your child's data. Please note that all students in your child's grade/class are being invited to participate; we are not selecting students based on test scores or school records. We are interested in how students at all reading levels approach these tests. Your child's data is very valuable to this study. We hope that you will give your consent for your son or daughter to participate. Without your signed consent, your child will not be able to participate in the study. If you agree to allow your child to participate in our study, please sign the enclosed consent form and return it to your child's teacher. If you have questions about the research study, please contact Kietha Biggers at kbiggers@ets.org or 609-734-5659.

Sincerely,

John Sabatini
Principle Research Scientist
Educational Testing Service