Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about a vitally important study of student learning being conducted in <our/your child's> school this spring. The Middle Grades Longitudinal Study of 2017-18 (MGLS:2017) will follow a cohort of students as they progress through the middle grade years, making the transition from elementary school and preparing for the transition into high school. The goals of the study are to assess students' mathematics and reading skills, their other (noncognitive) skills important to learning, their socioemotional well-being, and to collect data on family and school factors that may encourage success during these important years of education.

Your child's school has accepted an invitation from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the U.S. Department of Education, to participate in the Operational Field Test of MGLS:2017. A sample of students from your child's school will take part. Your child is one of only approximately 1,200 students selected from across the United States to participate. The enclosed summary sheet provides background information about MGLS:2017, explains what is involved for each student selected to participate in the study, and gives a contact phone number and email address where you can find answers to any questions you might have.

To have an accurate picture of what U.S. students in grade 6 can do in reading, math, and other (noncognitive) skills important to learning, it is important that each student selected take part in the study. In addition to answering reading and math questions, students will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about themselves and provide height and weight measurements, which is important to understanding the growth and development of adolescents. I urge you to support this effort by encouraging your child to take part. One parent of each selected student will also be asked to complete a questionnaire for the study, and information about that will come separately.

Completing the survey is voluntary for you and your child and there are no penalties for not participating. Your child may also skip any question he or she does not want to answer. All of the information collected is protected, as required by law. NCES is authorized to conduct MGLS:2017 by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C., § 9543). The data are being collected for NCES by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina. The collected data may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed or used, in identifiable form, for any other purpose except as required by law (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C., § 9573). The collected information will be combined across respondents to produce statistical reports.

If you do not want your child to participate in the MGLS:2017 activities, please let us know by completing the attached form and returning it to the school.

For more information, please visit the study website at <u>https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/mgls/</u>. You may also call the study hotline at (855) 500-1432 or send email to mgls@rti.org. Thank you for taking the time to learn about this important study.

Sincerely, [Signature]

Enclosures: Parent/Guardian Consent Form Frequently Asked Questions Sheet Brochure for MGLS:2017

Parent/Guardian Implicit Permission Form – MGLS:2017

Your child has been asked to participate in a study of student learning called the Middle Grades Longitudinal Study of 2017-18 (MGLS:2017). Student data will be collected in a 90-minute session during the school day. The student assessment will be administered by a team of researchers from RTI International, on behalf of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

If you give permission for your child to participate in MGLS:2017, you do not need to return this form. Please keep this copy for your records.

If you do not give permission for your child to participate in MGLS:2017, please check the box below, and sign and return this form to your child's school as soon as possible.

Date of signature:

No, I do <u>not</u> give permission for my child to participate in MGLS:2017.

_____/____/______/______

(Signature of parent or guardian)

Please Print:

Student Name:	

Parent Name: ______

Parent telephone:	

Parent email:	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Student ID: ______