

[DATE]

[SUPERINTENDENT NAME]

[DISTRICT NAME]

[ADDRESS]

[CITY, STATE ZIP]

Dear [SUPERINTENDENT]:

I am writing to ask your support for a new study of kindergartners in which one or more of the schools in your district have been selected to participate. The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011), conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education, will be in schools in the fall of 2010 and follows by about a decade a study of an earlier cohort of children. With the results from the previous study, researchers have examined full-day kindergarten, summer learning loss, teaching practices, and even childhood obesity. The new kindergartners' school experiences will be compared with those of the earlier cohort to learn more about how the demographic profile of our children and their learning environments have changed, and how these changes relate to the children's development. The study will involve nearly 21,000 kindergartners in all types of schools across the country.

The study will gather information from home and school to provide rich data on children's early school experiences beginning in kindergarten and continuing through fifth grade. If schools selected in your district have already agreed to participate in the ECLS-K:2011, then please extend my appreciation to them for their cooperation. I recognize from personal experience that participating in voluntary studies like the ECLS-K:2011 can be challenging given the essential work you do with students. The participation of each sampled school and student is important to ensure that the sample is truly representative of kindergartners in the United States and that the results reflect what kindergartners know and can do. If you are still considering whether your schools can participate, then I urge you to consider carefully the importance of the ECLS-K:2011 for understanding children's early learning and development and their progress through elementary school. The national education organizations listed on the back of this letter are supporting this important study by officially endorsing it.

If you have any questions about the ECLS-K:2011 or your district's participation, please feel free to call 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com). Information about the ECLS-K:2011 also is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls>.

Thank you for your support of this important study.

Sincerely,

Arne Duncan  
U.S. Secretary of Education

**National Education Associations Endorsing the ECLS-K:2011**

American Association of School Administrators  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Montessori Society  
Council for American Private Education  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council of Chief State School Officers  
International Reading Association  
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Catholic Educational Association  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Education Association  
National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)  
National School Boards Association  
National Science Teachers Association  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

## About the study



The *Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11* (ECLS-K:2011) is an exciting new study sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education and conducted by Westat.

During the 2010-11 school year, approximately 20,700 kindergartners in 900 public and private schools across the nation will be selected for the ECLS-K:2011. The ECLS-K:2011 will gather information from multiple sources to provide rich data on children's early school experiences beginning with kindergarten and following children through fifth grade. Each year, the study will conduct:

- **Child assessments** – Children will be assessed in reading, mathematics, and science in one-on-one sessions with trained assessors during the regular school day.
- **Physical measurements** – Children will have their height and weight measured. In kindergarten they also will have their hearing tested.
- **Parent interviews** – Parents will be asked to participate in telephone interviews to provide background information about their child, their family, and themselves.
- **Teacher and school administrator interviews** – Children's teachers will be asked to complete questionnaires that ask about their backgrounds, teaching practices, and the classroom learning environment. They also will be asked about children's academic skills. Children's school administrators will be asked to complete questionnaires about their backgrounds and features of their school and programs at the school.
- **Before- and after- school care provider interviews** – In the kindergarten year, before- and after-school care providers will be interviewed about both their care settings and their care of the ECLS-K:2011 children.



For additional questions or comments, contact:


Gail Mulligan  
ECLS-K:2011 Project Officer  
Institute of Education Sciences  
National Center for Education Statistics  
1990 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-5650  
Phone: (202) 502-7491  
E-Mail: ECLS@ed.gov

Karen Tourangeau  
ECLS-K:2011 Project Director  
Westat, Inc.  
1600 Research Blvd  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Phone: (888) 204-4864  
E-Mail: ECLSKHELP@westat.com

To learn more about the ECLS program, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls> and to learn more about the ECLS-K:2011 visit <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myeclsk2011>



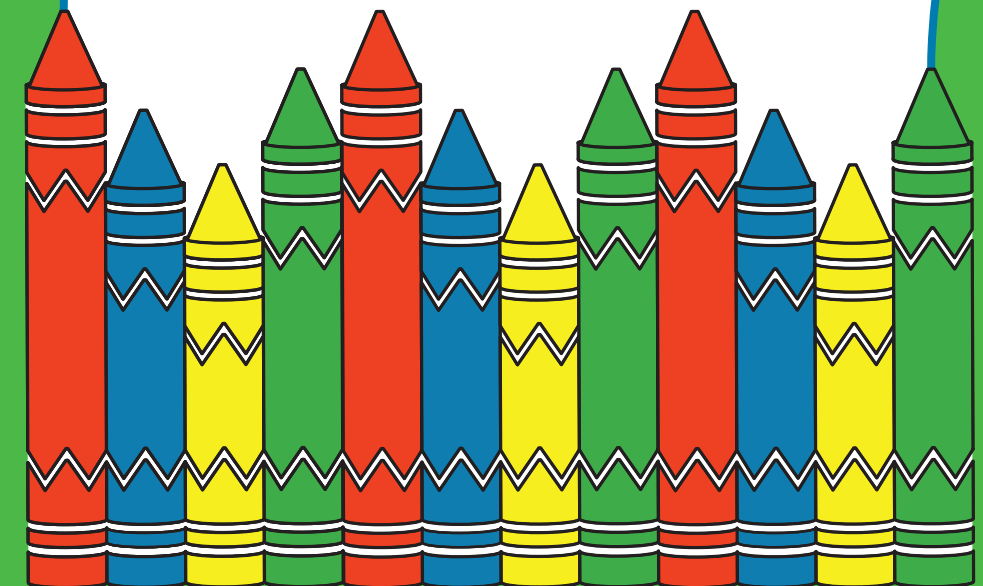
NCES is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-279, Section 153). Under that law, the data provided by respondents may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (Public Law 107-279, Section 183). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved the data collection under OMB # 1850-0750.



# Early Childhood Longitudinal Study

**Kindergarten Class of 2010-11**

National Center for Education Statistics  
Institute of Education Sciences  
U.S. Department of Education





## The ECLS program

The ECLS-K:2011 is the third in a series of early childhood longitudinal studies sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics. Like its predecessors, the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (ECLS-K) and the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort of 2001 (ECLS-B), the ECLS-K:2011 will provide comprehensive and reliable data about today's children, their early learning and development, transition into kindergarten, and progress through school. The data collected over the years will allow researchers, policymakers, and educators to study how student, home, classroom, school, and community factors in children's lives relate to cognitive, social, and emotional development and physical health at various points.

## Why is the ECLS-K:2011 so important?

Because many factors influence children's school experiences and outcomes, it is important to understand the different environments in which children live and learn. The ECLS-K:2011 will allow researchers and policymakers to answer the following types of questions:

- What do children know and what skills do they possess when they start school?
- How well do children do in their first encounter with formal schooling?
- How healthy are kindergartners? What percentage are considered overweight or underweight? How many have difficulty hearing?
- How do kindergartners behave? Do they pay attention to teachers, cooperate with other children, and display an eagerness to learn?
- How do children's knowledge, skills, and behavior change over time? How do their school experiences change over time?
- How well do children's kindergarten programs prepare them for the opportunities and challenges in later grades?

## Comparing kindergartners then and now

The last nationally representative study to track students through elementary school began with a kindergarten class in 1998-99. There have been many changes in children's lives and in their families and schools in the past 12 years.

For example;

- In early 2002 the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) was signed into law. NCLB requires schools to test 3rd through 8th graders to show they are making progress.
- School choice options, in particular public charter schools, have become more available to parents.
- More children have experience with computers and the internet. More educational television programs are available and aimed at young children.
- Health issues that can affect children's performance in school, such as child obesity and asthma, have become more prevalent. There also has been increased attention paid to autism spectrum disorders and to learning disabilities, such as attention deficit disorder.
- There has been an increase in access to prekindergarten programs, including state-funded programs.

The new ECLS-K:2011 can compare today's kindergartners and the environments in which they are learning to those of over a decade ago.



## Why should I participate?

The ECLS-K:2011 will provide information that can help families, teachers, schools, superintendents, policy makers, and researchers make informed decisions about what is best for today's children. It also can be used to explore how changes in school policy and the learning environment affect children's experience in kindergarten and in later school years. Such information is critical to providing our children with the best opportunity for success.

We found during the ECLS-K that children enjoyed the assessments and showing what they knew. Parents also reported that they were happy to participate:

**"I feel strongly that more parents should get involved to help improve the education system in this country. I am very excited and happy to be a part of this landmark study."**

*- Parent, Boston, MA*

**"We are happy to make a difference in education and the future of the early childhood program."**

*- Parent, Mason City, IA*

**"I think the study was a good idea. I was very happy that (my son) was picked. He said it was fun and that he had a really good time."**

*- Parent, Cincinnati, OH*

The success of the ECLS-K:2011 depends on your help. It is vitally important that those individuals who are selected agree to participate because they represent many others across the nation. Your participation will help to assure that the experiences of all parents and kindergartners are represented in the study.

## The ECLS-K:2011 will


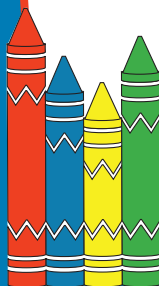
- Provide information on students enrolled in kindergarten during the 2010-11 school year;
- Track children's progress through elementary school, providing a rich and comprehensive source of information on children's early learning and development;
- Allow comparisons with the kindergarten class of 1998-99 to see how young children's early learning experiences have changed over the intervening 12 years; and
- Provide policy makers, education professionals, researchers, and parents with important information about children's education and development.

For questions or comments, contact:

Gail Mulligan  
ECLS-K:2011 Project Officer  
Institute of Education Sciences  
National Center for Education Statistics  
1900 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-5650  
Phone: (202) 502-7491  
E-Mail: ECLS@ed.gov




Karen Tourangeau  
ECLS-K:2011 Project Director  
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E-Mail: ECLSKHELP@westat.com

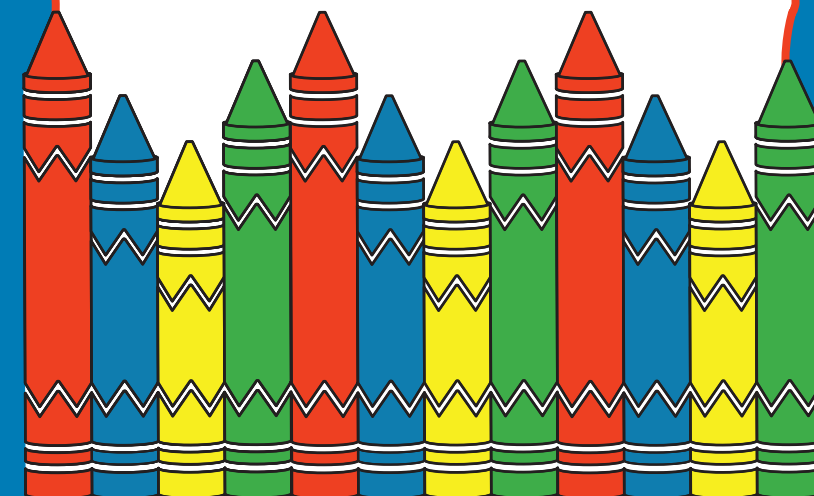


Early  
Childhood  
Longitudinal  
Study  
Kindergarten Class of 2010-11


Timeline of Data Collection Activities  
2010-11 School Year



Early  
Childhood  
Longitudinal  
Study  
Kindergarten Class of 2010-11



# TIMELINE OF ECLS-K:2011 DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2010-11

	FALL 2010	SPRING 2011	BENEFITS
<b>Principal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selects an assessment date convenient for the school.</li> <li>• Identifies a school coordinator. The school coordinator works with ECLS-K:2011 staff to plan for the assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completes the school administrator questionnaire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents principals in similar schools.</li> <li>• Receives on average of \$200 for their school in Spring 2011.</li> <li>• Receives \$25 in Spring 2011 in appreciation for completing the school administrator questionnaire.</li> </ul>
<b>School Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works with ECLS-K:2011 staff. Arranges logistics for data collection within the school.</li> <li>• Provides a list of students to participate in the study.</li> <li>• Arranges for parental notification for students to participate in the ECLS-K:2011.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributes school administrator and teacher questionnaires.</li> <li>• Collects completed questionnaires.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists in obtaining important information about schools, teachers, and students in the U.S.</li> <li>• Receives \$25 in Fall 2010.</li> </ul>
<b>Teacher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completes a form asking about academic skills and classroom behavior for each sampled student in his or her class.</li> <li>• Completes a teacher questionnaire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completes a student rating form for each sampled student in his or her class.</li> <li>• Completes a teacher questionnaire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides important information about U.S. kindergartners and their school environments.</li> <li>• Receives \$7 per completed Student Rating Form.</li> </ul>
<b>Parent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides consent for his or her child to participate in the ECLS-K:2011.</li> <li>• Responds to a telephone interview.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to a telephone interview.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents U.S. parents of kindergartners like him/herself and contributes to an understanding of the importance of family background factors in early learning and achievement.</li> <li>• Receives informational study material including newsletters and summaries of results from previous ECLS studies.</li> </ul>
<b>Child</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participates in a one-on-one assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participates in a one-on-one assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents U.S. students like him/herself and contributes to an understanding of what U.S. kindergartners know and can do.</li> </ul>
<b>ECLS-K:2011 Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide school information packets to schools in advance of the school recruitment calls.</li> <li>• Work with the principal to identify a school coordinator and to set an assessment date.</li> <li>• Sample kindergartners within each school and link teachers to students.</li> <li>• Help school coordinator with assessment details.</li> <li>• Conduct child assessments and parent interviews.</li> <li>• Maintain school, teacher, and student confidentiality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct child assessments and parent interviews.</li> <li>• Collect completed school and teacher questionnaires.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide valuable data to policymakers, educators, researchers, and the general public about U.S. kindergartners.</li> </ul>
<b>Find Out More</b>	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myeclsk2011">http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myeclsk2011</a> 		

**Example Birthday Card from ECLS-K**

Happy Birthday

生日快樂

Chúc mừng sinh nhật

Zoo siab rau koj lub hnub yug

Feliz aniversário

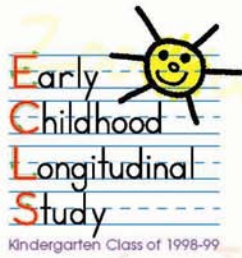
Feliz Cumpleaños

Joex Anniversaire

Hau'oli La Hanau

お誕生日おめでとうございます





Feliz Cumpleaños

Ab raiu koj lub hnuv yug

Chúc mừng sinh nhật Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday

From everybody  
at ECLS-K

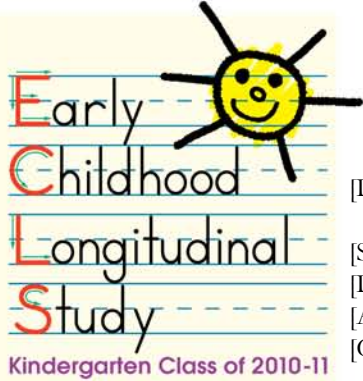
Joeux Anniversaire

Hau'oli La Hanau

生日快樂

お誕生日おめでとうございます

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[DATE]

[SUPERINTENDENT NAME]  
[DISTRICT NAME/DIOCESE]  
[ADDRESS]  
[CITY, STATE ZIP]

Dear [SUPERINTENDENT]:

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011), the third in a series of longitudinal studies of young children conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The earlier studies have been important sources of data for researchers and policy makers to address key issues related to children's development and learning including literacy in the home, the teaching of reading and mathematics, and the associations between physical exercise, childhood obesity, and well-being. Researchers using the data have published their findings widely in scientific journals and the popular press. NCES also presents the results from these studies for practitioners and the general public on our website, <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls>.

Like its predecessor studies, the ECLS-K:2011 will provide important information on children's early learning and development, transition into kindergarten, and progress through elementary school. The new cohort of kindergartners' school experiences will be compared to those of over a decade earlier to study the extent to which the demographic profile of children and their environment for learning have changed. We are notifying you because one or more schools in your district have been selected to take part in ECLS-K:2011 in the 2010-11 school year.

Participation in this study is voluntary; however, we ask your agency to support the participation of schools in your district in ECLS-K:2011. Since ECLS-K:2011 is designed to test a representative sample of U.S. students, the accuracy of ECLS-K:2011 depends on the full participation of the sampled schools and students. In appreciation for their time and efforts, the schools that participate will each receive an honorarium of \$200 in spring 2011. In addition, school-level coordinators and participating teachers also will receive honoraria.

The National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences is the primary sponsor of the ECLS-K:2011, which is being conducted on behalf of NCES by Westat. ECLS-K:2011 been endorsed by the national education organizations listed on this letter. NCES is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-279, Section 153). Under that law, the data provided by your schools, staff, students, and their parents 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 (Public Law 107-279, Section 183). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved the data collection under OMB # 1850-0750.

Next winter, a representative of Westat will contact the schools in your district that are on the attached list. We are required by law to protect the names of schools selected for the study from disclosure; we ask that each district respect this requirement and protect the identity of participating schools as well. Information collected from multiple individuals will be combined to produce reports of findings from the ECLS-K:2011. The reports will not identify participating districts, schools, children and their parents, or individual staff.

Detailed information about the ECLS-K:2011 can be found in the materials enclosed with this letter. If you have questions about the study, please feel free to call Westat toll-free at 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com). Also, more information about ECLS-K:2011 is available at: <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/MyECLSK2011>.

Thank you for your support of the ECLS-K:2011.

**Endorsed by:**

- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Montessori Society
- Council for American Private Education
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Council of Chief State School Officers
- International Reading Association
- Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
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**Sponsored by:**



U.S. Department of Education



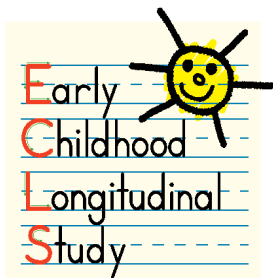
Westat • 1600 Research Boulevard • Rockville, MD 20850

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky  
Deputy Commissioner  
National Center for Education Statistics

cc: [DISTRICT TEST DIRECTOR]

Enclosure: LIST OF SELECTED SCHOOLS



## Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011)

### Parent Permission for Child to Participate

Your child is being asked to take part in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011), which follows a sample of children from kindergarten through fifth grade. The ECLS-K:2011 is sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences and is being conducted on behalf of NCES by Westat. In the 2010-11 school year, children in kindergarten in your child's school and other schools across the nation will be selected to participate in ECLS-K:2011. Your child will be asked to take individually administered assessments designed to measure skills in reading, mathematics, and science. Also as part of the assessment, through a brief number game and a picture game, we will be assessing your child's working memory and regulation of attention. Your child's teacher and child care provider will complete questionnaires about themselves and your child.

The collection of information in this study is authorized by Public Law 107-279 Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Title I, Part C, Sec. 151(b) and Sec. 153(a). The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1850-0750. Participation in the ECLS-K:2011 is voluntary. Children may skip questions they do not wish to answer; however, we hope that they will answer as many questions as they can. Children's responses are protected from disclosure by federal statute (PL 107-279 Title I, Part C, Sec. 183). All responses that relate to or describe identifiable characteristics of individuals may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose, unless otherwise compelled by law. Data from multiple individuals will be combined to produce statistical reports. No individual data that links names, addresses, telephone numbers, or identification numbers with responses will be included in the statistical reports.

If you have any questions or concerns about the protection of the information you provide or your rights in this research study, contact Gail Mulligan at the National Center for Education Statistics at 1-202-502-7491 or [Gail.Mulligan@ed.gov](mailto:Gail.Mulligan@ed.gov).

#### **PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

**I have read the letter and the information above.**

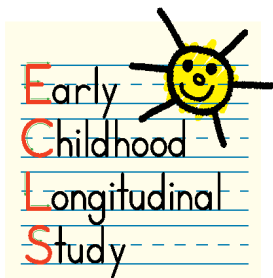
- I consent to my child's participation in the ECLS-K:2011.**
- I DO NOT consent to my child's participation in the ECLS-K:2011.**

**Please complete, sign, and return this form in the enclosed envelope to your child's school.**

CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First and last name*

Sign your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of parent/guardian* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Print your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First* \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Middle* *Last*



## Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011)

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#### **PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

**I have read the letter and the information above.**

**I DO NOT consent to my child's participation in the ECLS-K:2011.**

**Please complete, sign, and return this form in the enclosed envelope to your child's school.**

CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First and last name*

Sign your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of parent/guardian* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Print your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First* \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Middle* *Last*



Fall 2010

Dear Parent,

I am pleased to invite you and your child to participate in a new and exciting study of how young children develop and learn. This study is called the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011). It is the third in a series of longitudinal studies of young children conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Like the earlier studies, the ECLS-K:2011 will be an important source of data for researchers and policy makers as they seek to understand and improve children's development and learning. The ECLS-K:2011 is described in more detail in the brochure included in your study package. For more information you can also visit the ECLS-K:2011 website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLS-K2011>.

Your child was selected at random to join 21,000 children from 900 kindergartens around the country cooperating in this important national study. These children were selected to represent the experiences of the nearly 4 million children entering kindergartens in the United States this year. It is important that each and every selected child participate so that the study accurately portrays the early education experiences of all American children. The study's goal is to provide information to help all children be successful in their education.

The National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences is the primary sponsor of the ECLS-K:2011, which is being conducted on behalf of NCES by Westat, a survey and research company. ECLS-K:2011 has been endorsed by the national education organizations listed on this letter. Participation in this study is voluntary; however, I encourage your participation in the ECLS-K:2011. You and your child have the opportunity to provide information that will help improve the quality of education for all U.S. children.

All information collected will be protected from disclosure to the fullest extent allowable by law. Information from multiple individuals will be combined to produce statistical reports; no information that identifies you or your child (e.g., name or address) will be included in any reports. Your child's school will not receive any of the information collected by our assessors about your child; participation will not affect your child's grades or progress in school.

A consent form for your child to participate in the ECLS-K:2011 assessment tasks is enclosed. Please sign the form and return it to your child's school.

The enclosed materials should answer your questions and give you more detailed information about this study and what is involved for you and your child. If you have further questions about the study, please feel free to call Westat toll free at 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com). Also, more information about ECLS-K:2011 is available at the NCES website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLSK2011>.

**Endorsed by:**

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**Sponsored by:**



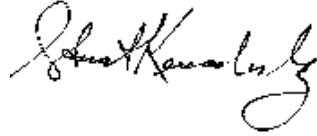
U.S. Department  
of Education



Westat • 1600 Research Boulevard • Rockville, MD 20850

Thank you for your time and consideration of the study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Kerachsky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Stuart Kerachsky, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner  
National Center for Education Statistics Institute of Education Sciences

Enclosures





Fall 2010

Dear Parent,

I am pleased to invite you and your child to participate in a new and exciting study of how young children develop and learn. This study is called the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011). It is the third in a series of longitudinal studies of young children conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Like the earlier studies, the ECLS-K:2011 will be an important source of data for researchers and policy makers as they seek to understand and improve children's development and learning. The ECLS-K:2011 is described in more detail in the brochure included in your study package. For more information you can also visit the ECLS-K:2011 website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLS-K2011>.

Your child was selected at random to join 21,000 children from 900 kindergartens around the country cooperating in this important national study. These children were selected to represent the experiences of the nearly 4 million children entering kindergartens in the United States this year. It is important that each and every selected child participate so that the study accurately portrays the early education experiences of all American children. The study's goal is to provide information to help all children be successful in their education.

The National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences is the primary sponsor of the ECLS-K:2011, which is being conducted on behalf of NCES by Westat, a survey and research company. ECLS-K:2011 has been endorsed by the national education organizations listed on this letter. Participation in this study is voluntary; however, I encourage your participation in the ECLS-K:2011. You and your child have the opportunity to provide information that will help improve the quality of education for all U.S. children.

All information collected will be protected from disclosure to the fullest extent allowable by law. Information from multiple individuals will be combined to produce statistical reports; no information that identifies you or your child (e.g., name or address) will be included in any reports. Your child's school will not receive any of the information collected by our assessors about your child; participation will not affect your child's grades or progress in school.

A consent form for your child to participate in the ECLS-K:2011 assessment tasks is enclosed. If you will allow your child to participate in the study, you do not need to return this form. If you do not want your child to take part in this study, please fill out the form and return it in the enclosed envelope to your child's school.

The enclosed materials should answer your questions and give you more detailed information about this study and what is involved for you and your child. If you have further questions about the study, please feel free to call Westat toll free at 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com). Also, more information about ECLS-K:2011 is available at the NCES website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLSK2011>.

**Endorsed by:**

- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Montessori Society
- Council for American Private Education
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Council of Chief State School Officers
- International Reading Association
- Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- National Catholic Educational Association
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- National Education Association
- National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)
- National School Boards Association
- National Science Teachers Association
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

**Sponsored by:**



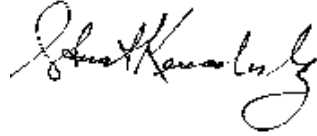
U.S. Department of Education



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Stuart Kerachsky, Ph.D.

Deputy Commissioner

National Center for Education Statistics Institute of Education Sciences

Enclosures



[DATE]  
[PRINCIPAL NAME]  
[SCHOOL NAME]  
[ADDRESS 1]  
[CITY, STATE ZIP]

Dear [PRINCIPAL]:

**Endorsed by:**

- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Montessori Society
- Council for American Private Education
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Council of Chief State School Officers
- International Reading Association
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- National Education Association
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- National School Boards Association
- National Science Teachers Association
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011), the third in a series of longitudinal studies of young children conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The earlier studies have been important sources of data for researchers and policy makers to address key issues related to children's development and learning including literacy in the home, the teaching of reading and mathematics, and the associations between physical exercise, childhood obesity, and well-being. Researchers using the data have published their findings widely in scientific journals and the popular press. NCES also presents the results from these studies for practitioners and the general public on our website, <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls>.

Like its predecessor studies, the ECLS-K:2011 will provide important information on children's early learning and development, transition into kindergarten, and progress through elementary school. The new cohort of kindergartners' school experiences will be compared to those of over a decade earlier to study the extent to which the demographic profile of children and their environment for learning have changed. We are notifying you because your school has been selected to take part in ECLS-K:2011 in the 2010-11 school year.

The selected kindergarten children will complete individual assessments with trained ECLS-K:2011 assessors. These assessments are designed to measure children's language and quantitative skills, as well as obtain indicators of children's working memory and regulation of attention, both of which are associated with learning. Children will also have their height and weight measured. These activities will take approximately 1 hour to complete. Parents and teachers will also be asked to participate. Parents will be asked to provide background information about their children and their families. Teachers will be asked to provide information about their teaching practices, the sampled children's classrooms, and the sampled children.

Participation in this study is voluntary; however, I encourage your school's participation in ECLS-K:2011. Since ECLS-K:2011 is designed to be a representative sample of U.S. students, its accuracy depends on the full participation of your school, teachers, and students. We are asking you to identify a staff member at your school to act as a liaison with the ECLS-K:2011 and facilitate the activities in the school that are part of the study. In appreciation for your time and efforts, your school will receive a \$200 honorarium, and participating school staff also will receive an honorarium.

The National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences is the primary sponsor of the ECLS-K:2011, which is being conducted on behalf of NCES by Westat. ECLS-K:2011 been endorsed by the national education organizations listed on this letter. NCES is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-279, Section 153). Under that law, the data provided by your schools, staff, students, and their parents 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 (Public Law 107-279, Section 183). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved the data collection under OMB # 1850-0750.

Within the next few days, a representative of Westat will contact you about participating in this important study. Information collected from multiple individuals will be combined to produce reports of findings from the ECLS-K:2011. The reports will not identify participating districts, schools, children and their parents, or individual staff.

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Detailed information about the ECLS-K:2011 can be found in the materials enclosed with this letter. If you have questions about the study, please feel free to call Westat toll-free at 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com). Also, more information about ECLS-K:2011 is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/MyECLSK2011>.

Thank you for your support of the ECLS-K:2011.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky  
Deputy Commissioner  
National Center for Education Statistics



Fall 2010

[NAME]  
[SCHOOL NAME]  
[ADDRESS 1]  
[ADDRESS 2]  
[CITY, STATE ZIP]

**Endorsed by:**

- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Montessori Society
- Council for American Private Education
- Council for Exceptional Children
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- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- National Education Association
- National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)
- National School Boards Association
- National Science Teachers Association
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dear School Coordinator:

Welcome to the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011), an important new study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). This study is the third in a series of longitudinal studies sponsored by NCES and is described in more detail in the brochure included in your study package. For more information, you can also visit the ECLS-K:2011 website at [nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLSK2011](http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLSK2011).

As you know, your school has been selected to participate in the ECLS-K:2011 and your principal has designated you to help with the ECLS-K:2011 activities that will take place in your school. Enclosed is a check for \$25 in appreciation for your helping us with this important study.

This fall children will complete one-on-one assessments with trained ECLS-K:2011 assessors. These assessments are designed to measure children's reading, mathematics, and science skills and knowledge. Children also will have their height and weight measured and executive functioning assessed. These activities will take approximately 1 hour for each child to complete.

We appreciate your help with five tasks, which are detailed in the enclosed materials. These are (1) confirm the date and time for the fall activities; (2) identify an appropriate space for the assessments; (3) help select a sample of kindergarten children to participate in the study; (4) notify parents that their children were selected for the study; and (5) identify the primary teachers of the selected children. Please read the enclosed materials for more information about the study and your important role in it.

The National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences is the primary sponsor of the ECLS-K:2011, which is being conducted on behalf of NCES by Westat. ECLS-K:2011 has been endorsed by the national education organizations listed on this letter. NCES is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-279, Section 153). Under that law, the data you provide 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 (Public Law 107-279, Section 183). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved the data collection under OMB # 1850-0750.

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of Education

OMB 1850-0750; expires 03/31/2012.

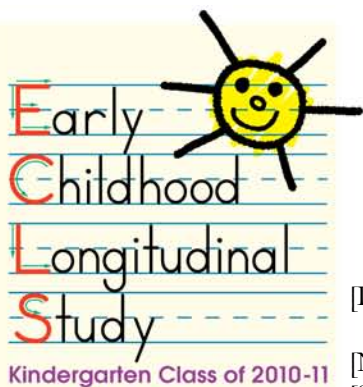
Westat ● 1600 Research Boulevard ● Rockville, MD 20850

Thank you for your support of the ECLS-K:2011. We look forward to working with you and your school. An ECLS-K:2011 representative will call you in the coming weeks to further explain the study and your responsibilities. If you have any questions or concerns in advance of the phone call, please call Westat toll free at 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Kerachsky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Stuart Kerachsky, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner  
National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences



[DATE]

[NAME]

[STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION]

[ADDRESS]

[CITY, STATE ZIP]

**Endorsed by:**

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- National Catholic Educational Association
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- National Education Association
- National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)
- National School Boards Association
- National Science Teachers Association
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dear [CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICER]:

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011), the third in a series of longitudinal studies of young children conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The earlier studies have been important sources of data for researchers and policy makers to address key issues related to children's development and learning including literacy in the home, the teaching of reading and mathematics, and the associations between physical exercise, childhood obesity, and well-being. Researchers using the data have published their findings widely in scientific journals and the popular press. NCES also presents the results from these studies for practitioners and the general public on our website, <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls>.

Like its predecessor studies, the ECLS-K:2011 will provide important information on children's early learning and development, transition into kindergarten, and progress through elementary school. The new cohort of kindergartners' school experiences will be compared to those of over a decade earlier to study the extent to which the demographic profile of children and their environment for learning have changed. We are notifying you because {insert number} schools in your state have been selected to take part in ECLS-K:2011 in the 2010-11 school year. Participation in the study is voluntary; however, we ask your agency to support the participation of schools in your state in this study so that the sample is truly representative of kindergarteners across the country.

The National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences is the primary sponsor of the ECLS-K:2011, which is being conducted on behalf of NCES by Westat. ECLS-K:2011 has been endorsed by the national education organizations listed on this letter, including the Council of Chief State School Officers. NCES is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-279, Section 153). Under that law, the data provided by your schools, staff, students, and their parents 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 (Public Law 107-279, Section 183). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved the data collection under OMB # 1850-0750.

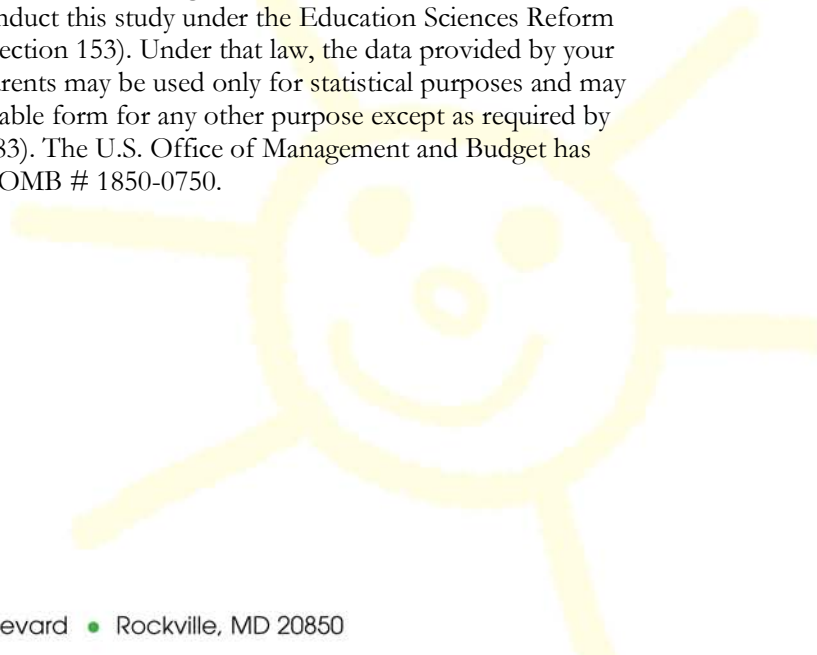
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of Education



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This fall Westat will notify sampled school districts about the study. During the winter, a Westat representative will contact sampled schools to discuss the data collection activities. Detailed information about the ECLS-K:2011 can be found in the materials enclosed with this letter. If you have questions about the study, please feel free to call Westat toll-free at 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com). Also, more information about ECLS-K:2011 is available at: <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/MyECLSK2011>. Thank you for your support of the ECLS-K:2011.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kerachsky  
Deputy Commissioner  
National Center for Education Statistics

cc: [STATE TEST DIRECTOR]

Enclosure





Fall 2010

Dear <TEACHER FIRST NAME LAST NAME>,

Welcome to the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011), the third in a series of longitudinal studies of young children conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Like the earlier studies, the ECLS-K:2011 will be an important source of data for researchers and policy makers to address key issues related to children's development and learning. The ECLS-K:2011 is described in more detail in the brochure included in your study package. For more information on this and the prior longitudinal studies, you can also visit the NCES website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLSK2011>.

Teachers are an essential component of the ECLS-K:2011. You provide valuable insights into the classroom experiences of the children participating in the study. We will ask you to help us in several ways. As the regular classroom teacher of some of our sampled children, we will ask you to complete a questionnaire about the characteristics of your classroom and your professional background, as well as a child-level questionnaire for each ECLS-K:2011 sampled student you teach. You will receive an honorarium of \$7 for each of the child-level questionnaires that you complete. We also will need your cooperation as we complete one-on-one child assessments. We will be in your school for 2-3 days to conduct the assessments. We will make arrangements with your school's ECLS-K:2011 school coordinator regarding the times that we can have access to the children and where the assessments will take place. It is possible that we will be taking children out of your classroom so that they can participate in the assessment.

Your participation in this study is voluntary; however, I encourage your participation in the ECLS-K:2011. Please read the enclosed materials for more information about the study and your important role in it. These materials provide instructions for you on how to complete the questionnaires and return them to your school's ECLS-K:2011 school coordinator. They also provide information about the one-on-one child assessments.

The National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences is the primary sponsor of the ECLS-K:2011, which is being conducted on behalf of NCES by Westat. ECLS-K:2011 has been endorsed by the national education organizations listed on this letter. NCES is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-279, Section 153). Under that law, the data you provide 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 (Public Law 107-279, Section 183). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved the data collection under OMB # 1850-0750.

**Endorsed by:**

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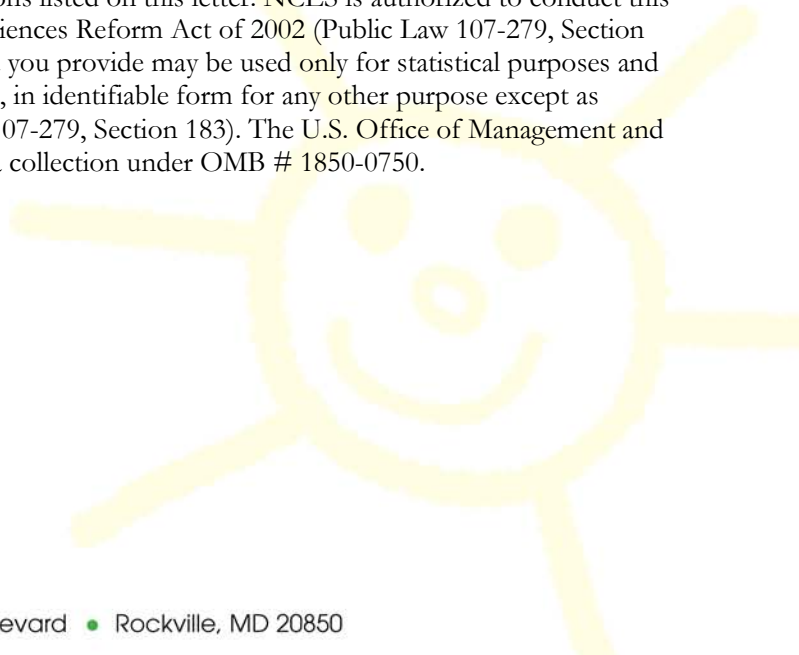
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of Education

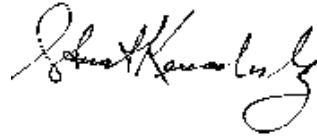


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Thank you for your support of the ECLS-K:2011. If you have questions about the study, please feel free to call Westat toll free at 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com). Also, more information about ECLS-K:2011 is available at the MyECLSK2011 website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLSK2011>.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the study.

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Stuart Kerachsky, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner  
National Center for Education Statistics Institute of Education Sciences

Enclosures



Spring 2011

Dear <CENTER DIRECTOR FIRST NAME LAST NAME>,

I am pleased to invite you to take part in a new and exciting study of children's early learning experiences. This study is called the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011). It is the third in a group of long-term studies of young children done by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Like the earlier studies, it will give us important information about children's development and learning. You may read more about the study in the brochure in your study package. For more information you can also visit the ECLS-K:2011 website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLS-K2011>.

One or more children in your child care program were selected at random to join 21,000 children from 900 kindergartens around the country cooperating in this important national study. We are interviewing children's parents, teachers, and principals, and assessing the children themselves. We are also getting information from child care providers. The parents of one or more of your children gave us permission to contact you (consent forms are in your study package).

You have the chance to help us understand the role of before- and after-school care in the lives of all U.S. children. The children in this study were selected to represent the experiences of the nearly 4 million children entering kindergartens this year. It is important that each and every child and child care program participate so that the study correctly describes the early education experiences of all American children. The study's goal is to provide information to help all children be successful in their education.

The National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences is the primary sponsor of the ECLS-K:2011, which is being done on behalf of NCES by Westat. ECLS-K:2011 has been endorsed by the national education organizations listed on this letter. Taking part in this study is voluntary; however, I encourage you to be part of it. All information collected will be protected from disclosure to the fullest extent allowable by law. Information from multiple individuals will be combined to produce statistical reports; no information that identifies you or the children in your care will be included in any reports.

A token of our appreciation is enclosed. We would like for you to fill out the questionnaire called "Directors/Administrators in Center-based Care: Your Program." We would also like for each child's main teacher (or you, if you are also the main teacher) to complete one questionnaire called "Teachers in Center-based Care: About Yourself," and one or more questionnaires (one per child) called "Teachers/Care Providers: About the Child." If one of the children left your program more than a month ago and you don't expect him or her to return, please fill in whatever questions you can and write "has not been here for over a month" on the top of that child's "Teachers/Care Providers: About the Child" questionnaire. Please send the questionnaires back to us in the envelope provided. If you have questions, please feel free to call Westat toll free at 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com).

Thank you for your time and consideration of the study.

Sincerely,

Karen Tourangeau, Project Director

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**Endorsed by:**

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- National Science Teachers Association
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

**Sponsored by:**



U.S. Department of Education



Westat

Enclosures



Spring 2011

Dear <HOME PROVIDER FIRST NAME LAST NAME>,

I am pleased to invite you to take part in a new and exciting study of children's early learning experiences. This study is called the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2010-11 (ECLS-K:2011). It is the third in a group of long-term studies of young children done by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Like the earlier studies, it will give us important information about children's development and learning. You may read more about the study in the brochure in your study package. For more information you can also visit the ECLS-K:2011 website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ecls/myECLS-K2011>.

One or more children whom you take care of were selected at random to join 21,000 children from 900 kindergartens around the country cooperating in this important national study. We are interviewing children's parents, teachers, and principals, and assessing the children themselves. We are also getting information from child care providers. The parents of one or more of your children gave us permission to contact you (consent forms are in your study package).

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A token of our appreciation is enclosed. We would like for you to fill out the questionnaire called "Care Providers in Home-based Care: Your Program and You." Also, please fill out the questionnaire called "Teachers/Care Providers: About the Child." There is one of these questionnaires for each child in the study. If one of the children left your care more than a month ago and you don't expect him or her to return, please fill in whatever questions you can and write "has not been here for over a month" on the top of that child's "Teachers/Care Providers: About the Child" questionnaire. Please send the questionnaires back to us in the envelope provided. If you have questions, please feel free to call Westat toll free at 1-888-204-4864 or send an email to [ECLSKHELP@westat.com](mailto:ECLSKHELP@westat.com).

Thank you for your time and consideration of the study.

Sincerely,

Karen Tourangeau  
Project Director  
Westat

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