

The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2023-24 (ECLS-K:2024) Presentation for Parents

What is the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 2023-24 (ECLS-K:2024)?

The ECLS is a **national education program** that provides important information about children's knowledge, skills, and development from birth through elementary school.

The ECLS-K:2024 is a new study in the program that will gather information from **children, parents/guardians, teachers, and school administrators** to provide a complete picture of children's learning experiences.

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Who conducts the ECLS-K:2024?

The ECLS-K:2024 is conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the **U.S. Department of Education's** Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

NCES is working with **Westat**, a U.S.-based research organization, to conduct the study across the country. You may be contacted by Westat study staff, who will provide you with additional details about the study.

Who will be asked to take part in the ECLS-K:2024?



The ECLS-K:2024 team sampled approximately 25 **kindergarten students** (including transitional kindergarten and pre-first grade students) from our school to participate in the study.

School administrators, teachers, and parents/guardians of these selected students will also be asked to complete surveys as part of the study.

The study is longitudinal, meaning it follows the students over time. The ECLS-K:2024 team will contact the parents of selected students about future study activities.

When will the study be conducted?

For most schools, the ECLS-K:2024 team conducted the first phase of the study in schools over the course of 2 to 3 days between **August and December 2023**, when the selected children were in kindergarten.





The ECLS-K:2024 team will visit schools again in the **spring of 2024**, and then in the **spring of 2025** when most of the selected children will be in first grade.

The study will continue for the selected children again during the **spring of 2027** and **spring of 2029**. This will allow us to learn about changes for these children and their education over time.



What will my child do?

With your consent, your child will answer engaging, age-appropriate **reading-, math-, and memory-related questions** in one-on-one sessions with a trained ECLS-K:2024 team member.

-  The study team member will read and show illustrated tasks to your child, who can respond verbally or by pointing to their answer. Children have enjoyed answering these types of questions in previous ECLS studies.
-  The sessions will take place at school, during school hours, in a room such as the gym or library. School staff and parents are welcome to be in the room during their students' sessions.
-  The sessions are untimed but are expected to last **about 1 hour** for most children.
-  In some schools, all selected children will also have their height and weight measured to learn about their physical development.

Visit the study website at MyECLS.ed.gov to watch a video that includes an example of a child session in progress.

What else do I need to know about my child's participation?

- ✓ Any child who does not want to work with an ECLS-K:2024 team member will not have to do so. Children can skip any questions they do not want to answer.
- ✓ All ECLS team members are required to pass a **background investigation** before they are allowed to work with children. The Federal background investigation is conducted jointly by the U.S. Departments of Education and Defense.
- ✓ ECLS-K:2024 staff will work with teachers to schedule the child sessions at times that are convenient for the teacher and child. Every effort will be made to minimize the amount of class time that children miss.

Children in previous ECLS studies report enjoying the activities and the individual attention.

As a parent/guardian, what will I do?

You will be asked to complete a survey in the spring of 2024. It will take you about 45 minutes, but you do **not** have to do it all in one sitting. While the survey is available online, you can request a telephone interview if you prefer to participate that way.

The survey will include **questions about your family, your child's experiences, and more to gain a better understanding of your child's learning and development.**

You will again be asked to complete new web surveys in each future phase of the study. To thank you for your participation, at each time period you will receive a token of our appreciation (for example, this spring you are receiving a \$15 Mastercard ® and a children's book).



What will my child's teacher and principal do?

In each phase of the study, the ECLS-K:2024 team will ask your child's teacher to complete a survey about **his or her background and classroom**, as well as surveys about the **skills and knowledge of participating children**.

In several phases of the study, your child's principal will also be asked to complete a survey about **his or her background and the school**.



Teachers will not be asked to conduct the study activities with the children.

How can the ECLS-K:2024 help my family and school?

The ECLS-K:2024 explores how different factors—at home and at school—relate to children’s development and learning. Through reports from the U.S. Department of Education and others, you can learn about topics such as:

- 🍎 How well does kindergarten prepare students for later grades?
- 🍎 How were young children’s educational experiences impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?
- 🍎 What support do parents/guardians and families need to be more involved in their child’s education?

How will privacy be protected for me, my child, and our school?

Teachers, schools, children, and families will **not** be identified in any ECLS-K:2024 reports. **Information will be combined from all participants to produce reports for the nation as a whole.**

All of the information provided by children, families, teachers, and principals 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 (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). All staff working on the study have signed an affidavit of non-disclosure where they swear to abide by this law.

This means that—unless ordered by a court—**no information you provide that identifies you or your child can be shared outside of the ECLS-K:2024 project.** All staff working on the study have signed an agreement where they swear to abide by this law and face serious penalties, including jail time, if they knowingly reveal information that identifies you or your family.

Where can I find more information?

You can learn more about this field test at MyECLS.ed.gov.

You can see examples of questions from previous ECLS studies, find study reports, and learn more about the ECLS program at nces.ed.gov/ecls/.

You can call the ECLS information number, **1-855-898-2018**, or send an email to ECLS@westat.com.



Thank you for your time and efforts in helping to make the ECLS-K:2024 a success!