Description of Research Study

Teacher perspectives on Social Emotional Learning in Early Childhood

This study will take place during the spring semester of 2026. It will involve one virtual or in-person interview per participant asking demographic questions, classroom composition, teaching experience, and various questions regarding elementary teachers' social and emotional learning (SEL) and classroom management knowledge, strategies, challenges, and success when working with Elementary Grade (Pre-K-6) students.

The goals of the project are:

- Identify teachers' current socioemotional well-being
- Identify common classroom management issues that teachers encounter
- Understand how teachers' socioemotional well-being influences their SEL practices to address classroom management issues

Elementary teachers will be invited to participate after approval from Kean University's Institutional Review Board (IRB). Participation in the study is voluntary, and teachers can decline participation and withdraw from the study at any time. Participants can decline from answering interview questions as well.

Data Confidentiality: Data collected during this study will remain confidential, and they will not be used to identify the teachers or their school in any way. Findings of this study may be used for conference presentations and publications, but no identifying characteristics will be shared that might reveal the identities of the school or the teachers.

Benefits of this Study to the Discipline and Community:

- The study will help teachers to reflect and discuss current practices and challenges they are facing working with elementary students and promoting SEL while being culturally responsive.

- If the study is published or presented at a conference, this study will also contribute to disseminating findings about beneficial SEL practices for elementary students to a wider audience.

Approval to Conduct a School-Based Research Study

As the authorized official of Township Of Union Public Schools, I agree with this school's participation in the study entitled "Teacher perspectives on Social Emotional Learning in Early Childhood" under the direction of Dr. Eleni Zgourou, Kean University. I have been given a full description of the project and have reviewed the following items and discussed their appropriateness with Chinwe Ononiwu:

- Interviews

I understand that no research activities will be conducted until the Kean University IRB has reviewed and approved this study.

I understand that I may withdraw the school's participation at any time or prohibit the inclusion of any of the measures listed above.

If I have any questions about this research study I may contact the investigator, Dr. Eleni Zgourou at ezgourou@kean.edu

If I have any concerns about the conduct of this study, I can contact the Kean University IRB at 908-737-3461.

Name authorized official: _____

Title: _____

Phone/email: _____

Signature _____

Approval to Conduct a School-Based Research Study

As an authorized official of the Township of Union School District, I agree to our school's participation in the study entitled "Teacher perspectives on Social Emotional Learning in Early Childhood" under the direction of Dr. Eleni Zgourou. I have been given a full description of the project and have reviewed the following items and discussed their appropriateness with Natalie Smith:

- Interviews

I understand that no research activities will be conducted until the Kean University IRB has reviewed and approved this study.

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