

Assent Form

Project Title: School Safety Initiative

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The research team from the Social Relations Collaborative (SRC) of Mississippi State University is conducting a research study about how students respond to interactions with other students.

If you decide to be a part of this study, at the time that our research assistants call your parent to schedule your appointment, they will be able to indicate their preferred mode of transportation for you to and from the study. We will be providing transportation for students to their homes upon completion of the Cyberball experiment. However, if your parent would like to pick you up from the SSRC, or if you have your own vehicle, then they will be able to tell the scheduler, and we will note that in your appointment entry. Your parent can provide transportation for you, or you can use the transportation provided by the school district using MSU drivers to the Social Science Research Center and then to your residence upon completion of the experiment. Once at the Social Science Research Center, you will be asked to participate in a computer game called Cyberball where you toss a ball to other high school students. You will also be asked to complete a short survey about you and your experiences at school before the game starts, and another survey about your experiences and reactions to the way you were treated in the Cyberball game. The surveys and Cyberball game will take about an hour to complete.

Not everyone who takes part in this study will benefit from the research. A benefit means that something good happens to you. We think your participation will help us gain knowledge about the ways students get along with one another so we can help improve schools throughout the United States. This project is part of a national research study funded by the National Institute of Justice to make schools safer. De-identified data (i.e., no names will be included in the data) will be archived at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD).

You will be given the choice of a \$15 gift card to either Walmart, iTunes, or Amazon as a token of our appreciation for you participation.

When we are finished with this study, we will write a report about what we learned. This report will not include your name or that you were in the study.

You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to be. If you decide to stop after we begin, that's okay too.

If you decide you want to be in this study, please sign your name.

_____ *Yes, I'll be in the study.* _____ *No, I do not want to be in the study.*

Participant's Name (Please Print): _____

Signature

Date

Investigator's Signature

Date