

## **Parent/Guardian Informed Consent Agreement**

**Please read this consent agreement carefully.**

### **Purpose of the focus group**

We are conducting a research project on how students and their families decide which colleges to apply to and how perceptions about the availability of financial aid affect these decisions.

The goal of the focus group is to evaluate, revise, and refine the questionnaire for this research study. Data collected during the focus group will only be used for that purpose, and individual data will not be retained.

### **What your child will do in this focus group**

Your child will be asked to complete the research questionnaire, then, in a group, to verbally evaluate the relevancy of the entire questionnaire and their understanding of each question. Also, your child may be asked verbally about their understanding of various topics, and to describe their thoughts and experiences about the college search process. The questionnaire includes questions about high school courses and grades, extracurricular activities and work experience, and expectations about college enrollment. Your child's answers to the questions on the questionnaire will only be used to evaluate the questionnaire, and will not be stored or analyzed in any way. Furthermore, your child may refuse to answer any of the questions at any time.

### **Time required**

The focus group is scheduled from 7 to 9pm.

### **Risks**

There are no anticipated risks associated with participation in the focus group.

### **Benefits**

Each participant in the focus group will receive \$25 as a token of our appreciation.

### **Confidentiality**

The researchers will hold the information that your child gives in the study confidential. Because of the nature of focus groups, however, any information your child communicates verbally may be heard or revealed by other focus group participants. Focus group participants are encouraged to share only their first name, and are asked to maintain the confidentiality of other participants, but this cannot be enforced.

### **Participation and withdrawal**

Your child's participation in this study is completely voluntary, and your child may skip any questions on the surveys without penalty. **Your child may withdraw from the focus group at any time without penalty.** Your child may withdraw by informing the researcher that s/he no longer wishes to participate and/or leaving the focus group location.

Participating in the project will in no way affect the relationship you or your child has with the University of Virginia or Harvard University, nor affect admission or financial aid outcomes at any college.

**If you have questions about the study, contact**

The focus group is administrated and moderated by the Center for Survey Research at the University of Virginia. If you have questions about the focus group, please contact:

Robin Bebel, 434-982-5541, RBebel@virginia.edu

The Principal Investigators for this research project are Sarah Turner, University of Virginia and Christopher Avery, Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University. If you have questions about this research, please contact either Professor Avery or Professor Turner:

Christopher Avery, 617-496-4063, Christopher\_avery@ksg.harvard.edu

Sarah Turner, 434-924-7857, sturner@virginia.edu.

**Whom to contact about your rights in this research**

If you have questions about your rights in this study, please contact:

Tonya R. Moon, Ph.D.,  
Chair, Institutional Review Board for the Social and Behavioral Sciences  
One Morton Dr Suite 500  
University of Virginia, P.O. Box 800392  
Charlottesville, VA 22908-0392  
Telephone: (434) 924-5999  
Email: irbsbshelp@virginia.edu  
Website: www.virginia.edu/vprgs/irb

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The nature and purpose of this research has been satisfactorily explained to me, and I agree to allow my child to participate in the focus group. I understand that my child’s participation is voluntary and that s/he is free to discontinue participation at any time if s/he so chooses.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent of \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: Aid and Application Awareness