

HORIZON RESEARCH, INC. TEACHER CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENSCIEd FIELD TEST SCHOOL YEARS 2023–2025

Why are you being asked to read this form?

This form is intended for K–5 teachers interested in participating in the OpenSciEd Elementary Field Test. If you want to participate in the field test, you will need to read and agree to the following consent form. A copy of this consent form will be emailed to you for your records.

What is the purpose of the field test?

The purpose of the field test is for teachers to try out the new OpenSciEd elementary curriculum and give feedback to curriculum developers to help them revise the materials. In addition, field test teachers will provide information about impacts on their teaching beliefs and practices.

Who is leading the field test?

Horizon Research, Inc. (HRI), an education research firm in Chapel Hill, NC, is leading the field test for the OpenSciEd elementary materials. If you have questions about the field test, please contact the field test director or the field test manager.

Field Test Contact Information

Field Test Director	P. Sean Smith, PhD	ssmith62@horizon-research.com	(919) 489-1725
Field Test Manager	Courtney Plumley	opensciEd@horizon-research.com	(877) 297-6829 (toll free)

What will happen in the field test?

Each field test teacher will teach a total of four units over two school years, two units each year. Field test teachers will also participate in professional learning (PL) for each unit. Table 1 summarizes the data collection activities for participating teachers. Teachers will complete a background survey at the beginning of the field test. They will also complete a post-PL survey after each PL experience (4 total) and an end-of-unit survey after completing each curriculum unit. Each survey should take 15–20 minutes to complete. Finally, all field test teachers will have access to an open feedback form, which they can use at any time to give curriculum developers feedback about the units. All surveys will be housed on a data-collection dashboard, which teachers will access using a password.

Table 1
Data Collection Activities for All Field Test Teachers

Data Collection Activity	Timeline	Administration Method
Teacher background survey	At the beginning of teacher’s participation (once)	Online survey platform
Post-PL survey	Following each unit’s PL (2x each year)	
End-of-unit survey	Upon completion of each unit (2x each year)	
Open feedback form	Ongoing (as needed)	

At two times during the two-year field test, teachers will be asked to participate in a more intensive data collection activity, displayed in Table 2. (The table lists three activities, but each teacher will complete only two.) The time needed for these data collection activities will vary. The end-of-unit interview will take approximately one hour. Exit tickets and work products will be completed by students as part of their regular classroom instruction. Teachers will need to de-identify and upload student work to the online data collection dashboard, which should take no more than 15 minutes each time (no more than 60 minutes total).

Table 2
Intensive Data Collection Activities

Data Collection Activity	Timeline	Administration Method
End-of-unit interview	Upon completion of specified unit	Online videoconferencing platform
Student exit tickets	At the end of specified lessons	Photographed or scanned and uploaded to online dashboard
Student work products	Collected during specified lessons	Photographed or scanned and uploaded to online dashboard

What are the possible risks involved from being in the field test?

We anticipate no more than minimal risk for you associated with participating in the field test-related data collection activities. The risks to you are related to the information you provide through the surveys. Although some information, if revealed, could conceivably harm your reputation, the likelihood of harm is very small because of the data security measures in place to protect you. In addition, because of the types of questions that will be asked and the type of information that will be collected, we anticipate the seriousness of any potential harm to be small as well.

What are the possible benefits from being in this field test?

You will receive free curriculum materials and accompanying equipment and supplies at no cost. You will also receive free professional learning (PL) aligned with the curriculum materials. In addition, the information you provide may lead to improvements in the curriculum and PL materials for future users.

Will you get any payment from HRI for being in this field test?

You will not receive any compensation from HRI for being in the field test, but some states may provide some compensation to their field test teachers.

How will information about you be protected?

All data collected in the field test will be kept using code numbers rather than names. Your responses will be stored in the cloud (data are encrypted in transit and at rest, and access is protected via multi-factor authentication), and stored on a restricted (password-protected) computer. Your name and any other facts that might point to you will not appear when results of the field test are presented or published.

Will it cost anything to be in the field test?

Beyond the time you spend participating in the field test, there will be no cost to you.

What if you don't want to be in the field test?

Your participation in the field test is voluntary. You do not have to be in the field test if you do not want to be. You have the right to change your mind and leave the field test at any time without giving any reason.

What if you have questions about the field test?

You have the right to ask, and have answered, any questions you may have about the field test. If you have questions or concerns, you should contact the individuals listed on the first page of this form.

What if you have questions about your rights as a research participant?

All research on human volunteers is reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, you may contact Gretchen Newman at (877) 297-6829 (toll free) or by email at g.newman@horizon-research.com.