

School Year: 2026-2027 **School Name:** _____ **Teacher:** _____

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Purpose of the Research Study

Your child’s Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program is participating in a research grant in partnership with Waterford.org, LLC (“Waterford”), a nonprofit prekindergarten instructional organization. The purpose of this research project is to help evaluate the effectiveness of short, personalized computer-based instruction in early learning. Waterford is performing this research through the VPK Program’s use of Waterford’s Early Learning Software.

Description of Participation

With your permission, your child will participate in:

- A 15 minute personalized instructional computer program
- The instruction will be focused on either reading or math/science
- The subject area will be randomly assigned by the grant manager at Waterford
- Instruction will take place during the regular school day under teacher supervision

Participation in this research project does not replace regular classroom instruction.

Waterford.org, LLC Terms of Service and Privacy Policy:

Waterford Terms of Service that Hernando County School District has agreed to are attached for your convenience. Waterford’s Privacy Policy can be found at:

<https://www.waterford.org/privacy-policy/>

Data Collection and Use

As part of this research grant:

- Waterford will collect student performance data related to your child’s use of the instructional program
- Data may include progress, skill development, and performance within the program
- Student data will be used only for research and instructional improvement purposes
- Student data will be shared with Education Partners of Waterford for research purposes

Data Sharing and Protection

Student data (hereinafter referred to as “Student Data”) shared with Waterford may include:

- First and last name
- Date of Birth
- School name or Student ID
- Teacher ID/Classroom ID
- Grade level
- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity
- Free or reduced lunch status
- Special education status
- School email address
- Reading Achievement - Relevant Formative Assessments, if administered
- Math Achievement – Relevant Formative Assessments, if administered
- End-of-Year Assessments, if administered

Laws That Protect Student Data:

We comply with the following state and federal privacy laws to protect students online:

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act): FERPA protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents the right to review student records. Under FERPA, schools may disclose student directory information (name, phone number, address, grade level, etc.), but parents may request that the school not disclose this information.

CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act): CIPA protects students from harmful materials online, including those that are obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors. Issaquah School District implements technology protection measures to block or filter harmful content.

COPPA (Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act): COPPA applies to commercial operators of websites or online services and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under 13. No personal student information is collected for commercial purposes. This permission form allows the school to act as an agent for parents in the collection of information for educational purposes and solely for use within the school context.

Section 1002.22, Florida Statutes: Governs privacy and access of student education records in Florida’s public schools and institutions.

Data Sharing Privacy Agreement

Waterford has entered into the National Data Sharing Privacy Agreement (“DPA”), Version 2, which provides for the transmission, retention, use and disposition of Student Data .

Comprehensive security controls are utilized to protect against unauthorized access during Student Data transmission and storage.

Waterford maintains the right to collect, aggregate, store, use, and distribute de-identified and anonymized Waterford Assessment Data and Usage Data for legal purposes, including providing services, providing performance assessments to applicable Education Partners, and improving the Software and Waterford’s Products and Services generally.

Waterford must not re-identify without the Hernando County School District’s written direction.

Waterford will not sell student information and will handle data in accordance with applicable student privacy laws.

Waterford must dispose of Student Data or provide a mechanism for Hernando County School District to transfer it, within 60 days of Hernando County School District’s written request, following a mutually agreed schedule and procedure.

Voluntary Participation

Participation in this research grant is completely voluntary. Your decision will not affect your child’s enrollment, grades, or access to school services. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting your child’s teacher or school administrator.

Confidentiality

Your child’s identity will be kept confidential in any reports or publications resulting from this research. Data will be reported in summary form and will not identify individual students.

Parent/Guardian Consent

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- I have read and understand the information above.
- I voluntarily give permission for my child (name): _____ to participate in the Waterford research grant for the 2026-2027 School Year.
- I understand that Waterford will have access to my child’s instructional program performance data.
- I understand that my child’s Student Data will be shared with Waterford for use of the Waterford Early Learning Software and participation in the Waterford Research Project.
- I authorize Hernando County School District to release my child’s Student Data to Waterford for participation in the Waterford research project.
- I authorize Waterford to collect my child’s Student Data in order to allow my child to participate in the Waterford Research Project.
- I understand that all such data referenced herein may be confidential under Federal Law and Florida Law, including, but not limited to section 1002.22, Florida Statutes and 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1232g, and I waive all rights of confidentiality as to this authorization, thereby allowing Hernando County School District to provide my child’s student data to Waterford during the VPK Program.
- I acknowledge that this consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time by informing Hernando County School District staff, in writing, except that prior consent will still apply to the extent that agencies have already acted in reliance of it.
- I acknowledge that I have the right to inspect or obtain a copy of any record released by this consent upon request in writing to the releasing agency, subject to any applicable copying costs and legal limitations.
- I agree to release, hold harmless, and indemnify the Hernando County School Board for any and all damages or claims arising out of the Board’s compliance with my authorization to share my child’s data to, and the collection of that data by, approved education platforms during their participation in the VPK Program and Waterford Research Project.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____