



**RMC Research Corporation**  
3550 Buschwood Park Drive  
Tampa, FL 33618

Phone: 813.915.0010; 800.762.5001  
Fax: 813.932.1781  
[www.RMCResearchCorporation.com](http://www.RMCResearchCorporation.com)

**Evaluation of the Accessing Choices in Education**

Principal Investigator: Shannon Lasserre-Cortez

**PARENT, CAREGIVER, AND COMMUNITY MEMBER CONSENT FORM: 2021-22 Academic Year**

Dear Parent, Caregiver, and Community Member:

The Yerington Paiute Tribe (YPT) Education Department is working with RMC Research Corporation (RMC) to conduct an evaluation of the implementation and impact of *Accessing Choices in Education* (ACE) program in improving educational opportunities and achievement among tribal youth during the 2021/22 school year. As part of the evaluation, we are inviting you to complete parent, caregiver, and community member surveys and possibly participate in a focus group.

More information about the study and opportunities for your participation are below. Please read carefully and complete the questions at the end of the form to indicate which aspects of the research you agree to participate in.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Shannon Lasserre-Cortez, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
RMC Research Corporation



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## **CONSENT FORM**

This consent form explains the *Accessing Choices in Education (ACE)* program evaluation. Before you decide to be part of this study, you need to know why the research is being done, what it will involve, and the risks and benefits. You may ask the study staff to explain anything in this form or to give you more information. Please take time to read this form carefully. If you agree to take part in this evaluation, please complete the form below.

**Disclosure of financial interests:** The Yerington Paiute Tribe (YPT) Education Department, the sponsor of this research study, is providing funds to RMC to conduct this evaluation.

**Purpose of the evaluation:** The evaluation is designed to document the implementation and impact of the ACE program during the 2021/22 school year. Results from the evaluation will be used to provide YPT more information about ACE, its implementation, and its effectiveness. Evaluation findings will be summarized in a report to YPT that includes information about implementation and outcomes.

**What you will be asked to do in the study:**

We are inviting you to participate in an online survey in the fall and spring of the 2021/2022 school year and possibly a focus group in the fall of 2021. Each online survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. The fall 2021 survey will ask questions about what activities, services, and academic supports are most needed by students and families. The survey in the spring will include questions about the overall helpfulness of activities, services, and academic supports provided by the program and will ask for suggestions for program improvement. A smaller number of parents, approximately 8-10, will be asked to take part on a one-hour focus group during the fall of 2021. The questions ask about what parents/caregivers know about the program's services and how they are selected; knowledge and skills students can gain from being part of the program; ease of using the website, other activities and supports needed; and suggestions for program improvement. You will not be asked to complete any other evaluation activities.

**Who is participating:**

RMC expects that all Parents/Caregivers of Native students attending Yerington Intermediate School and Yerington High School and Community members will participate in the study.

**Time required:**

Each survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. The focus group will take approximately one hour to complete.

**Length of participation:**

The research study will take place from August 2021 through July 2022.

**Voluntary participation and withdrawal:**

Your participation is voluntary, and you may choose to stop participating at any time during the activities. If you decide to participate in this survey and/or focus group and then change your mind, you can stop participating in the activity. You may also skip any question on the survey and/or in the focus group. There is no penalty if you do not participate or if you decide to withdraw from the survey and/or focus group.

**NOTE:** If you decide to participate, you still have the option of withdrawing from the study by sending an email to Linda Fredericks ([fredericks@rmcres.com](mailto:fredericks@rmcres.com)) no later than one week after the survey or focus group. After that time, your responses will automatically become part of the data collected for the annual report.

**What you should know about the evaluation:**

This project is **not** an evaluation of educators or YPT Department of Education. There are no right or wrong answers.

**Risks:**

Participation in the evaluation poses minimal risk beyond the physical or psychological harm that is normally encountered in the daily lives of healthy persons. One risk of participation in this research is the possibility of adverse social or employment related consequences for the focus group participants in the event of a breach of confidentiality. The study team cannot guarantee confidentiality in focus groups because there is no control over what information might be shared by participants after they leave the focus group, or what repercussions might result from such breaches of confidentiality. The topics of the focus groups are not sensitive in nature and there is minimal risk associated with sharing information from them.

**Benefits:**

The ACE program intends to benefit students by expanding their educational choices to meet their needs and aspirations. The study results may support implementation and use of ACE resources in YPT schools.

**Incentives:**

Survey participants will have the satisfaction of helping current and future students access educational opportunities and reach their academic goals.

**Confidentiality:**

We want you to feel free to respond honestly, so we will make every effort to keep the information you share with us confidential. Strict rules for data collection are enforced. Other than the research team, no one will see responses to the questions. **No individual information about you will be reported or shared with anyone. No names will be used in any reports. No questions of a personal nature will be asked. Results will only be reported for all participants. No data collected for this study will be used or distributed for future research studies.**

**Exclusion:** There are no exclusion criteria for this study.

**New Information:**

You will be notified in a timely manner if important new findings become known that may affect your willingness to continue in the evaluation.

**For questions about the study or to report a problem:**

If at any time before, during, or after the study you have questions, please contact Dr. Shannon Lasserre-Cortez, Principal Investigator at RMC Research Corporation, at (800) 762-5001 or email at [shannon.lasserrecortez@rmcres.com](mailto:shannon.lasserrecortez@rmcres.com) and she will be happy to answer any questions you have.

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a participant in the study, you may contact Solutions IRB (the organization that oversees the protection of study participants) at 1-855-226-4472 or email [participants@solutionsirb.com](mailto:participants@solutionsirb.com).

**Statement of Consent:** By selecting, “Yes, I would like to participate in each data collection activity,” I confirm the following:

- I have read this entire consent form.
- All my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand that I can leave the study at any time without giving a reason and without penalty, but after I have completed each data collection activity, my responses will become part of the findings.
- I agree to the collection, use, sharing, and analysis of personal information and study information collected as part of this study by the sponsor and other authorized persons and regulatory agencies as described in this form.
- I will be given a copy of this signed and dated consent form to keep.
- I understand I am not giving up any legal rights in this study.

**Authorization:** Please make your selection for each study activity. Once you have made your selection, please type your name and email address when requested.

#### **Surveys**

- .. No, I do not want to participate in the survey.
- .. Yes, I would like to participate in the survey.

#### **Focus Group**

- .. No, I do not want to participate in the focus group.
- .. Yes, I would like to participate in the focus group.

**Results of the research:** If you would like, you will be notified upon publication of any related academic manuscripts or research results by providing your email address. Your email address will only be used for this purpose. If possible, a link will be provided for accessing the articles. Please note that some publications may require a fee for accessing articles.

- .. No, I do not want to receive information about results of the research.
- .. Yes, I would like to receive information about results of the research.

**You only need to return this form if you do NOT want to participate in the surveys and/or participate in a focus group.** If it is okay with you to take the survey(s) or participate in a focus group, you do not have to do anything or you may check the boxes that say “Yes.” If you have any objection for any reason, simply check the boxes saying “No.” You do not give up any legal rights by choosing to participate or not participate.

#### **Please check one from each column:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I can take the surveys.           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I can participate in a focus group.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not want to take the surveys. | <input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not to participate in a focus group. |

**Your Name (printed):**

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(First name)

(Last name)

**Name of Your Child's/Children's Middle and/or High School (if applicable; please spell out):**

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(Example: Yerington High School)

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!