

Date: 30th Jan 2026



YOUR CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN MOE COMMISSIONED STUDY

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child/ward's class has been nominated to take part in a National Institute of Education (NIE) study commissioned by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and titled, "*DRivers, Enablers, and pathways of Adolescent developMent in Singapore (DREAMS)*".

This commissioned study (DREAMS) has also received the approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) (IRB Reference No. **IRB-2023-411**). Involving 9000 students from up to 147 schools, this longitudinal study seeks to understand the educational pathways, personal identity, social relationships, adolescent lifestyle and wellbeing outcomes of students as they progress from early- to mid-adolescence. The findings from this study will help us understand more about the development of adolescents as they progress through secondary education and make recommendations that support the future readiness of young Singaporeans.

The Principal Investigators (PI) of this study comprise a team of researchers from the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. These include Prof Kenneth Poon (Lead PI), Dr Melvin Chan, Dr Trivina Kang, and Dr Tan Ser Hong (co-Lead PIs), as well as Prof Rebecca Ang, Dr Imelda Caleon, Ast/Prof Azilawati Jamaluddin, Dr Fannie Khng Kiat Hui, and A/Prof Arief Liem (Project PIs).

Your child/ward will be invited to complete one or two surveys (each not taking up more than 45 minutes) every year until the end of Secondary school. Your child will be asked to indicate their assent (see enclosed Study Information and Assent Sheet) before the survey begins. Background demographic information will be asked to provide context to the findings. Limited personal data will be collected (e.g., name, email, last 4 characters of NRIC, date of birth) to allow the matching of participants' responses across each year. We will also collect your child's/ward's contact information for the study team to contact your child/ward for study-related communication and engagement purpose. Additional data from government agencies (e.g., students' academic results), where relevant and permitted, may be linked to the anonymized study data to support deeper analysis. Your child/ward will also be asked in the assent form if they would like to be recontacted to invite them to take part in future study.

Your child's/ward's responses will be kept confidential. However, we may need to share your child's/ward's information and responses with you and/or your child's/ward's school in situations where your child's/ward's safety or that of others is of concern, or when it is required by law. They may also be invited for a follow-up interview (currently planned in Secondary 3 and/or 4, with separate consent form to be provided if your child/ward is selected)

This is a MOE-contracted study, funded under the Education Research Funding Programme. Data collected are the property of the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

If you have no objections to your child/ward's participation, **no further action is required**. If you object to your child/ward's participation, you may tell them to decline participation during the scheduled survey administration.

As a token of appreciation, your child/ward will receive e-vouchers or vouchers (or equivalent) (worth \$5 - \$10) for each set of questionnaires and tasks completed; to keep each set short, there may be more than one set administered per year. Your child/ward may also be receiving goodie bags as part of our engagement events. Your child, from Secondary 4, may also be invited to participate, with your permission, in optional engagement events exclusive to DREAMS participants. They may occasionally receive emails or newsletters from our research team.

Additionally, you and/or your child/ward's teachers may occasionally receive emails or newsletters from our research team and may be sent a survey and/or be invited to an interview to understand your child/ward's development or educational pathways and your contributions to them. You may either accept or decline the invitation to participate then.

Thank you for your support for this study. Should there be any queries, please feel free to contact me or the research team at contact.sgls@nie.edu.sg.

Warm regards,

Prof Kenneth Poon
Lead Principal Investigator
kenneth.poon@nie.edu.sg

[For your reference only] Survey Information and Assent (Student)



DRivers, Enablers, and pathways of Adolescent developMent in Singapore (DREAMS)
NTU-IRB ref no. IRB-2023-411

You are invited to participate in this **Ministry of Education (MOE)** and **National Institute of Education (NIE)** study on **“DRivers, Enablers, and pathways of Adolescent developMent in Singapore (DREAMS)”**. The Principal Investigators (PI) of this study comprise a team of researchers from the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. These include Prof Kenneth Poon (Lead PI), Dr Melvin Chan, Dr Trivina Kang, and Dr Tan Ser Hong (co-Lead PIs), as well as Prof Rebecca Ang, Dr Imelda Caleon, Ast/Prof Azilawati Jamaluddin, Dr Fannie Khng Kiat Hui, and A/Prof Arief Liem (Project PIs). This study will involve 9,000 students from up to 147 Secondary schools.

You are invited to take part in this study because we would like to learn more about your social and academic experience in school, your relations with others, your lifestyles and preferences, your goals and aspirations for the future and related topics relevant to adolescent development. There will also be general questions about your family background, teachers and school. Your views will provide valuable insights about your educational experiences, the opportunities you have had or the challenges that you may have faced.

You will be asked to complete one or two surveys every year until the end of Secondary school. Each survey can be completed within the duration of 30 to 45 minutes. You will receive e-vouchers or vouchers (or equivalent) (worth \$5 - \$10) for each set of questionnaires and tasks completed; to keep each set short, there may be more than one set administered per year. If it is an e-voucher, it will be emailed to you based on the email address you provide in the survey. You may also be receiving goodie bags as part of our engagement events. You will also be invited to register your interest to participate in special events for our participants (subject to availability and parental consent). More information on these events will be provided at a later time.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

There are no risks to students participating in this survey beyond those that exist in daily life.

Your participation in this research will be kept confidential and survey data will be averaged and reported in aggregate. However, we may need to share your information and responses with your parents/guardians and/or school in situations where your safety or that of others is of concern, or when it is required by law. Identifying information (e.g., name, last 4 characters of NRIC, e-mail address) will be asked to ensure accuracy of our records, for linking of data collected at different time points, and for contacting you.

Additional data from government agencies (e.g., students' academic results), where relevant and permitted, may be linked to the anonymized study data to support deeper analysis. The findings of this study may be

reported in scientific presentations and reports, but also in social and broadcast media. Your identity will **NOT** be reflected or disclosed in these presentations, reports, and publications. We will also collect your contact information for the study team to contact you for study-related communication and engagement purposes

Although your participation in this research may not benefit you personally, the findings of the study will be helpful for parents and teachers in generating potentially effective strategies that seek to promote students' academic success and well-being.

Confidentiality of Data:

Your personal data privacy is important to us and we are committed to safeguarding your personal data. Please read this section carefully so that you know and understand the purposes for which we collect, use and disclose your Personal Data. In this form, “NTU” refers to Nanyang Technological University and its successors and assigns.

“**Personal Data**” means data about you which makes you identifiable: (i) from such data; or (ii) from that data and other information which an organization has or is likely to have access.

By agreeing to participate in this research study, you (or your legal representative on your behalf) give consent to the following:

- Collection, use, disclosure and processing of your Personal Data by NTU, for the purposes of the research study (the “Purposes”);
- Disclosure of your Personal Data by NTU to:
 - (1) authorised service providers and/or relevant third parties, whether located in Singapore or overseas, for the Purposes, as such authorised service providers and relevant third parties would be processing your Personal Data for the Purposes;
 - (2) the Ministry of Education (“MOE”) for MOE’s research purposes (including aggregated analyses) or other purposes permitted by law;
 - (3) relevant government ministries, statutory boards and/or any other government agencies when requested or when required under relevant legislations; and
- Storage of data in a secure repository server following NIE/NTU policies and PDPA requirements for supporting research, management and educational activities;
- Data to be combined with other relevant datasets for additional analyses; and
- To be contacted and invited to participate in studies related to the DREAMS project.

This is a MOE-contracted study, funded under the Education Research Funding Programme. Data collected are the property of the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

At completion of the research study:

Personal data and data collected for this study will be kept confidential and stored for a minimum of 10 years in a secure environment within NTU. Personal data will remain strictly confidential and will never be published in any research reporting. However, relevant personal data may be preserved and accessed by authorized staff of NIE/NTU to ensure proper research data management and by government officials for aggregated analyses with their own datasets.

Anonymized data will be securely stored on approved NIE repositories to support research, management and educational activities.

If you have questions about this project, you may contact us at +65 67903072 (or email at contact.sgl@nie.edu.sg) or Prof Kenneth Poon at +65 6219 6251 (or email at kenneth.poon@nie.edu.sg).

This project has been reviewed and approved by the NTU-Institutional Review Board. Questions concerning your rights as a participant in this research may be directed to the NTU-IRB at IRB@ntu.edu.sg or call 6592 2495.

Please print a copy of this consent form for your records if you so desire.

[For your reference only] Survey Information and Assent (Student)

To record your decision about participating in this study and for recontact purposes, please fill in your information below:

Full name as shown in NRIC: _____

Form Class: _____

Last 4 characters of your NRIC (e.g., if your NRIC is S1234567A, you write 567A): _____

School: (prefilled) _____

School Email Address: _____

Please click one of the boxes below to indicate if you agree to take part in the survey.

YES, I agree to participate in survey. I have read and understood the above assent form. By clicking this button, I indicate my willingness to voluntarily take part in the study.

NO, I decline to participate in the survey. If you do not wish to participate, please click on this button to decline to participate.

[The following fields will only be displayed if the child assents to the study.]

[To send e-vouchers and research-related content]

What is your date of birth:

Day (DD; e.g., 04): _____

Month (MM; e.g., 06): _____

Year (YYYY; e.g., 2010): _____

Hi! Do you want to find out more about the results of our study? Do you want to join in our future activities and programs? Do you want to continue to be in one of Singapore's largest longitudinal study? If you answer is YES, we want YOU! We are collecting additional contact information from you so that we can invite you to participate in our future project, as well as to contact you regarding project related matters and for engagement purposes.

I want to be contacted for future study.

No (1)

Yes (2)

I wish to remain contactable in my future educational institution (Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Polytechnics, Junior Colleges, etc.).

No (1)

Yes (2)

Thank you for your interest! Please provide your alternative contact information for us to reach you!

Alternative email address 1 (non school) (e.g., abc123@yahoo.com)

Alternative email address 2 (non school) (e.g., xyz123@gmail.com)

Your mobile phone number where applicable. (e.g., 98765432, 81234567)

Your home/ other phone number where applicable. (e.g. 61234567, 98765432)

Your telegram handle where applicable. (e.g., @yourusername)

Please enter your mailing address below:

Block/ house number

Street address (e.g., Hougang Ave 2, Tagore lane)

Unit number where applicable (#02-345)

Postal code (6-digit, e.g., 123456) Singapore
