

INFORMED CONSENT

Study Title: *Examining the Effects of Online Professional Development on Educator Knowledge and Self-Efficacy*

Protocol Number: IRB-FY2026-293

Approval Date:

Principal Investigator: Karen Kehoe, Ph.D.

Institution: Middle Tennessee State University (Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia)

You are being asked to participate in a research project . The following information is provided to inform you about the research project and your participation in it.

1. Purpose of the study:

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to study the effectiveness of the Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia's online dyslexia courses for improving educators' knowledge about reading, structured literacy instruction, and dyslexia. A second purpose is to examine whether participation in the courses leads to changes to sense of self-efficacy for providing structured literacy, especially for students with dyslexia and characteristics of dyslexia.

Participation in this study does not require any additional action beyond selecting "I consent to participate" at the end of this form. You are being asked to give your consent to allow researchers to analyze your data to answer the following research questions:

- a. *What is the effect of participation in the online dyslexia courses on educators' knowledge of dyslexia and effective instructional practices for students with characteristics of dyslexia?*
- b. *What is the effect of participation in the TCSTD's online dyslexia courses on educators' perceived self-efficacy for teaching students with characteristics of dyslexia?*

2. Description of procedures to be followed and approximate duration of the study:

- 1) Prior to beginning the courses, you will be asked to answer some demographic and background questions then complete a pre-test of your knowledge about reading and dyslexia and a brief questionnaire asking you to share your perceptions of your own knowledge and confidence for providing reading instruction to diverse learners. All of this will be done online and is expected to take approximately **53-75 minutes**.
- 2) Depending on whether you have been assigned to immediate or delayed course access, you will begin working on the online course on or after the specified date. You will work at your own pace to complete all course activities and assignments but must complete

them within the given timeframe (generally two months, or approximately nine weeks, per course). The estimated time to complete each course is approximately **8-10 hours** per course.

- 3) Within two weeks following course completion of the online courses, you will complete post-assessments online. The total estimated time for completion is: **45-60 minutes**.

3. Compensation for participation:

There is no compensation associated with participation in this study.

4. Here are your rights as a participant:

- a) Your participation in this research is voluntary.
- b) You may skip any item that you don't want to answer, and you may stop the research at any time. Note that if you leave an item blank, you will be warned that you missed one, just in case it was an accident. You can still click that you don't want to answer. Some items may be required in order to accurately present the study.
- c) There are no risks associated with your participation besides possible discomfort with some of the questions.
- d) There are no real benefits to you from participating besides possibly learning something about the research.
- e) All efforts, within reason, will be made to keep the personal information in your research record private, but total privacy cannot be promised. Your information may be shared with people at MTSU (such as the MTSU Institutional Review Board) or other agencies (such as the Federal Government Office for Human Research Protection) if you or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law.

Contact Information:

If you should have any questions about this research study please contact:

Principal Investigator: Karen Kehoe, Ph.D.

Contact Information: karen.kehoe@mtsu.edu (615) 494-8885

For additional information about giving consent or your rights as a participant in this study, please contact the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Office of Compliance at 615-494-8918 or via email at irb_information@mtsu.edu. (<http://www.mtsu.edu/irb>)

If you're ready to get started, please make your choice below before clicking the arrow button.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this project.