# BUSLOAD OF BOOKS

RESEARCH PROJECT FAQ

**Hello parents and guardians!** Your school is participating in a research project associated with the nationwide Busload of Books project. We hope this FAQ will address any questions you might have, but to learn more, please feel free to email us at **research@busloadofbooks.com** or go to **busloadofbooks.com/research** for more information.

## WHAT IS THE RESEARCH TEAM TRYING TO LEARN?

**There's plenty of anecdotal evidence** that author/illustrator visits have a positive impact on student attitudes and behaviors regarding reading and writing. However, no one has ever measured how these changes happen for students, or why they occur. This study will do just that.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

**The results of this study could:**

1. help school administrators advocate for funding for future author/illustrator visits,
2. help teachers prepare students to get the most out of such visits, and
3. help school districts make informed decisions about budgeting for literacy enrichment activities.

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

**Students will complete three brief surveys:** one prior to the Busload of Books visit, a second immediately following the visit, and a third one month later. The surveys measure attitudes and motivations around reading, writing, and drawing in schools. They are formatted in a friendly and accessible way (see example, below) and take less than 10 minutes to complete.

1) How do you feel about spending free time reading?

| I love it! | I like it. | It is ok. | I don't like it! |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**Teachers will be asked to complete pre- and post-visit surveys** that document

1. how they prepared students for the author/illustrator visit and
2. their general classroom literacy practices.

**Administrators (and other literacy-related school personnel) will be asked to complete a one-time survey** about their motivation to participate in author/illustrator visits and their school's literacy environment.

**Your school will have the choice** between completing the survey on paper or online (using the secure, industry-standard survey platform Qualtrics).

CONT'D >

## HOW WILL STUDENT PRIVACY BE ENSURED?

**Students will be identified by their initials only.** Once all data are collected, student initials will be replaced with an ID number. Researchers will use made-up names when reporting on participating students, teachers, and schools. ***Researchers will never have access to students' full names or other identifying information.***

## ARE STUDENTS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE?

**No.** Regardless of whether your school uses an opt-in or opt-out approach, parents (or guardians) will be given the option to have their students participate or not. Students will also have the opportunity to opt out themselves. ***There are no consequences for not participating.***

## WHO IS DOING THE RESEARCH?

**This research is being conducted by five professors** in the Education and Sociology Departments at **Washington College**: Dr. Sara Clarke-De Reza, Dr. Bridget Bunten, Dr. Nick Garcia, Professor Erin Counihan, and Professor Michelle Johnson.

# THANK YOU!

The Busload of Books research project represents an unprecedented opportunity to collect data that could help Title I educators secure funding and legitimacy for author visits and all the benefits they bring.

By participating, your school can help open doors and create opportunities for deserving students and teachers across the country!

To learn more about the tour, go to **busloadofbooks.com**