APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH REVIEW
LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL REVIEW BOARD
2019-2020

NAME:	**Adolescent Health Perspectives**
LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT	University of Massachusetts Lowell
APPROVAL FROM IRB (ORGANIZATION OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION) *Please list name and attach approval letter*	University of Massachusetts Lowell Institutional Review Board
RESEARCH INFORMATION	
1. Description of Study:	Health educators, city prevention specialists, and UML education researchers want to conduct research to improve the quality of health education delivered to students. The goal of this research project is to understand middle school students' perspectives on health because collecting information on the specific health needs of middle school students in each population may increase support and adequate tools for health educators to develop comprehensive curriculum materials. Our study will utilize student focus groups to collect data from middle school students to further understand middle school students' health needs and generate our findings.
2. Participants in the project:	
a. Unit of Study: (Teachers, students, etc.)	UML student researchers enrolled in a research service-learning course, a graduate student, and an assistant professor from the University of Massachusetts Lowell will co-facilitate focus groups. Health educators from each school will be present in the classroom during the time of focus groups with students.
b. Estimated amount of Participants:	Roughly 500 students from grades 5-8
c. Place an X in the box next to any of the following special populations involved in this study, if applicable.	**(X) Minors** **(X) Students with disabilities** **( ) Other vulnerable populations- please identify**
d. Age ranges:	**Grades 5-8 (ages 10-14)**

e. Gender of Participants (check all that apply):	**Male (X) Female (X)**
f.	
3. Research Methodology:	
a. How will this research be beneficial in advancing knowledge in the district?	The insight gained regarding middle school students' perspectives on their health education can inform the development of curricular resources that address the needs and backgrounds of current students. This can improve the educational experiences of students and ultimately improve the likelihood of students benefiting from their health education in the short- and long-term.
b. Will this research create a strain on the district's staff and/or resources? Please describe.	This research will not create a strain on the district's staff or resources because we are not requiring any funding or previous work to be completed prior to our study being conducted. Staff do not have to change their school's regular class schedule for the project to be integrated into their classrooms.

c. Describe the procedures involved in the collection or review of the data in sufficient detail so that the IRB can evaluate safety and risks to human participants. **If necessary, please review the attached NIH "Protecting Human Research Participants" PDF for additional info.**	Students will be split up into groups of 5-8 within their classroom. Each group of students will participate in an ice breaker activity with their facilitators to create a welcoming environment for students. Students will be informed of what they are expected to do in the study in simple language that outlines the clear objectives of the study. Students will be informed that they do not have to talk, participate, or engage in research if they do not want to. Children will not be required to sign documents to obtain their assent to participate. Students will be asked general questions about their perspectives on health. Researchers will not be asking students questions related to reproductive health however, these topics may be mentioned by other students. Students will participate in writing activities related to their opinions on health. Students will be prompted to talk about the strengths and weaknesses of their current health education. The focus groups will end when the health class period for students ends within their school day. Review of the data will occur with de-identifying data and students' identities will be deleted from all records. Students identifying information will not be included in any publicly available data. All data records will be stored in the PI's files.
d. What form of data collection will this research take? Check all that apply:	**( ) Survey** **( ) Experiment** **(X) Interview (Group)** **( ) Interview (Individual)** **( ) Existing Records** **( ) Observation** **( ) Other (Explain): _____**

e. Anonymity / Confidentiality. **1) If the responses are to be anonymous, explain the procedure you will follow so that participants' responses are in fact anonymous.** **2) If the responses are NOT anonymous, explain the procedure you will follow so that the responses will held in confidence.**	**Is your study anonymous? (X) yes ( ) no** **If not anonymous, is your study confidential? ( ) yes ( ) no**
f. Data Safety and Reporting:	Data will be collected from participants through audio recordings only. Any names and identifying information will be removed from records. Audio recordings will be electronically transferred into written transcript form. Once transcripts are generated, all recordings will be destroyed. All data files will be stored in the PI's files and the PI will be responsible for when student researchers are able to access data.
4. Level of Review:	
a. Researcher's classification of the project. (See Guidelines): **(The IRB will make the final determination.)**	**( ) No Risk** **(X) Minimal Risk** **( ) Risk**
b. If MINIMAL RISK or RISK, identify the potential risks:	There is minimal risk, students may feel uncomfortable discussing health related topics. However, students do not have to respond to any questions that they do not want to answer.

5. Informed Consent Form. If any risks are identified, you must submit an Informed Consent Form for approval. ***Parental Consent Forms MUST be used if minors are included in study, in predominant language of parent.*****	**(X) See attached (either at the end of this form, or as a separate file attachment on the electronic submission website)** **( ) Not applicable**
6. Will deception (purposefully misleading participants as to the purpose of the study) be used? **If yes:** **a. Describe the deception.** **b. Justify the use of deception.** **c. Explain how participants will be debriefed as to the real purpose of the study.** **d. Attach a copy of the debriefing statement or script.**	**YES ( ) NO (X)**

7. List all other institutions co-operating in the project. Attach written permission from each to your application.	
8. Attach a copy of the survey or interview questions associated with your project.	**(X) See attached (Appendix #)** **( ) Not applicable**