



Dear Parent:

The National Foreign Language Center (NFLC) at the University of Maryland is administering STARTALK to encourage and support (financially and technically) the offering of summer language programs for students of foreign languages. Along with their participation in the summer programs, the NFLC requests that participants complete on-line surveys about their previous language learning experiences and their attitudes and perceptions about languages learning before and after attendance, and an evaluation of their experience and plans for continued language study at the end of the program. These data, along with data about program characteristics, will be used to inform criteria for future programs and for program design recommendations to the language education community. Your participation in these surveys as a foreign language student is critical to the success of the STARTALK project and the improvement of foreign language learning and professional development strategies

STARTALK also requests that your child assess his/her language skills with LinguaFolio (a self-assessment, self-report tool widely in use in Europe and several U.S. states for language learners) at different points during his/her summer experience. Other assessment tools may be used by the program your child attends.

Although the NFLC will collect your child's name for the purpose of tracking his/her language development over time, only you, your child, and the researcher will have access to that information. All survey responses will be confidential. All data and analyses will be reported without identifying individuals, schools, or districts. The data will be password-secured. Only designated NFLC personnel will have access to the data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Ingold".

Dr. Catherine Ingold  
Project Director

Please return this form to the STARTALK program your child is attending.

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 Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSENT FORM STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

Project Title	<b>STARTALK</b>
<b>Why is this research being done?</b>	This is a research project being conducted by The National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland, College Park. We are inviting your child to participate in this research project because he/she is participating in one of the STARTALK Pilot summer programs for K-16 students of foreign languages. The purpose of this research project is to collect data on your child's experience and language development as a program participant to improve and/or expand future programming.
<b>What will my child be asked to do?</b>	The procedures involve completing a survey at the beginning and the end of your child's program experience. These surveys will record demographic information and previous language learning experiences, as well as your child's attitudes regarding language learning, at the beginning and end of his/her educational experience. The survey administered at the end of the program will also include questions that evaluate the program. The surveys will be completed online or on site (where applicable). STARTALK also requests (where applicable) that your child assess his/her language skills with LinguaFolio (a self-assessment, self-report tool widely in use in Europe and several states within the U.S. for language learners) during the course of his/her study. Other assessment tools may be used by the program your child attends.
<b>What about confidentiality?</b>	<p>We will do our best to keep your child's personal information confidential. To help protect your child's confidentiality, all data will be stored in a password-protected database. No participant names will be included in any public or published reports or discussions of the project. Your child's name will be collected for the surveys and other collected data; a code will be placed on the survey and other collected data accompanying the name of your child; through the use of an identification key, the researcher will be able to link your child's survey to his/her identity; and only the researcher, you and your child will have access to data. If the NFLC writes a report or article about this research project, your child's identity will be protected to the maximum extent possible. If NFLC would like to cite or showcase your child, for purposes of publicizing the project and recruiting future programs and participants it will request your express permission to do so. By signing this consent form you are agreeing for your child (where applicable) to be video or audio taped. No individual participant will be identified by name in audio or video materials used by the NFLC for publicity, reporting, or recruitment. Your child's information may be shared with representatives of the University of Maryland, College Park or governmental authorities if your child or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law.</p> <p><b>Check Box: I wish to be contacted before my child is cited in the future.</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<b>What are the risks of this research?</b>	There are no known risks to participating in these surveys and assessments.

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Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>STARTALK</b>
<b>What are the benefits of this research?</b>	<p>This research is not designed to help you or your child personally, but the results will be used to inform criteria for future programs and for program design recommendations to the language education community.</p> <p>We hope that, in the future, other people might benefit from this study through improved understanding of K-16 foreign language learning in different environments, increased interest in foreign language learning, and informed data on successful methodology for summer language programs and materials development.</p>
<b>Does my child have to be in this research? May my child stop participating at any time?</b>	<p>Your child's participation in this research is completely voluntary. He/She may choose not to take part at all. If he/she decides to participate in this research, he/she may stop participating at any time. If he/she decides not to participate in this study or if he/she stops participating at any time, he/she will not be penalized or lose any benefits to which he/she otherwise qualify.</p>
<b>What if I have questions?</b>	<p>This research is being conducted by <b>Dr. Catherine Ingold</b> at the University of Maryland, College Park. If you have any questions about the research study itself, please contact Dr. Ingold at:</p> <p>National Foreign Language Center          The University of Maryland          Mail Services Bldg #343          P.O. Box 93          College Park, MD 20742          (301) 405-9698</p> <p>If you have questions about your child's rights as a research subject or wish to report a research-related injury, please contact: <b>Institutional Review Board Office, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 20742;</b>  <b>(e-mail) <a href="mailto:irb@deans.umd.edu">irb@deans.umd.edu</a>; (telephone) 301-405-0678</b></p> <p>This research has been reviewed according to the University of Maryland, College Park IRB procedures for research involving human subjects.</p>

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<b>Project Title</b>	<b>STARTALK</b>	
<b>Statement of Age of Subject and Consent</b>	Your signature indicates that: you are at least 18 years of age; the research has been explained to you; your questions have been fully answered; and you/your child freely and voluntarily chooses to participate in this research project.	
<b>Signature and Date</b>	<b>NAME OF SUBJECT</b>	
	<b>NAME OF SUBJECT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN</b>	
	<b>SIGNATURE OF SUBJECT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN</b>	
	<b>SIGNATURE OF THE SUBJECT</b>	
	<b>DATE</b>	

