

Speak Up Research Project for Digital Learning Parental Consent Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our school is taking part in the Speak Up Research Project for Digital Learning, facilitated online by Project Tomorrow, a national education nonprofit organization (www.tomorrow.org) dedicated to support schools in school improvement efforts.

The Speak Up Research Project is an annual, national research project about the use of technology in schools. K-12 students, educators and parents are asked to answer online questions about how they are using technology for learning and share their aspirations for more effective usage. The resulting data gauges how technology is being used to support learning and provides San Marcos Unified School District with local and national data the district and school can use to inform planning and other instructional technology initiatives. The national results from Speak Up are presented throughout the year at multiple educational conferences sessions, webinars, and an annual Congressional Briefing to inform national and/or state/provincial policies and programs.

Project Tomorrow is not selling anything to our district and there is no cost for our participation in this process. We have decided to participate in Speak Up as a way to collect authentic feedback from our stakeholders efficiently so that we can improve our digital learning plans.

You have the right to review a copy of the questions asked of your child. If you would like to do so, you should view the questions online here:
http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/speakup_questions.html.

Or, you may contact Project Tomorrow at 949-609-4660 or Speakup@tomorrow.org to obtain a copy of the questions.

As a parent, you have the right to prohibit your child's participation.

Voluntary Participation/ Option to Withdraw: *You agree that your child's participation in this project is completely voluntary. There is no penalty for not participating in any aspect of this project or Speak Up. You or your child may withdraw from this project at any time. Withdrawing at any time will not result in any penalty or loss of benefit your child is otherwise entitled to. You or your child's alternative is to not participate in the project.*

The following facts about Speak Up will help you make an informed decision about your child's participation:

- Online participation in Speak Up is completely voluntary. Students will complete a series of 15-30 multiple choice questions and one open ended response question at speakup.tomorrow.org. Students will be instructed by their teacher that they can skip any questions they do not understand or choose not to answer.

- Speak Up is designed to protect each student's privacy. It is anonymous and confidential. Students will not be asked to include their name, and no student will ever have their individual responses reported. View the Speak Up privacy policy here: https://tomorrow.org/privacy_policy.html.
- Speak Up will be administered during the school day and will take 15-20 minutes to complete.
- Since fall 2003, Speak Up has helped education leaders include the voices of their stakeholders in annual and long-term planning. More than 5 million participants have made Speak Up the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered stakeholder input on education, technology, schools of the future, science and math instruction, professional development and career exploration. The information collected has proved invaluable to policymakers and school leaders and gives students the opportunity to share their views on technology and learning in a confidential and safe environment.

If you do not want your child to participate, please submit your request in writing.

Thank you for your help in our efforts to keep our schools drug free and safe for learning. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Orlando at jennifer.orlando@smusd.org.