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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of your child's class, he/she has been invited to participate in a project called *Engineering Energy Efficiency* funded by the National Science Foundation. The goal of this project is to investigate the educational value of scientific simulations for learning engineering. Students will design and build an energy-efficient scale model house with the aid of computer simulations and probeware measurement. In partnership with the Center for Engineering Education and Outreach at Tufts University, this project will test the assertion that simulations and hands-on projects are mutually beneficial. The research for this project is under the direction of Dr. Rachel Kay.

Your permission for your child to participate in this project means that data from your child's work with the educational materials will be collected for research. Participation is voluntary and involves no unusual risks. In any study of this nature however, your child's privacy and freedom of choice is a primary concern. Outside of the classroom and in any report of results, each child will be identified only by a code. Children's privacy will be strictly observed. Actual names and identities will not be made public. Furthermore, students can withdraw from the study at any time, and your decision to consent or not consent will have no effect on your child's grade. Regardless of your decision, students are expected to complete all tasks assigned by their teacher. Permission only affects the use of your child's data for research.

In addition, we may be taking photographs of children using Engineering Energy Efficiency in the classroom. We may also be videotaping classroom discussion. The photographs and video would be used primarily by Concord Consortium staff members to study how the curriculum is being used and what kind of learning is taking place. Secondly, they would be used to share information with the broader research community at conferences, in research papers, and/or on the Web. Once again, your child's identity will not be made public.

If you have any questions about this study, you may contact Amy Pallant the project manager at 978-405-3227. You may also contact Andrew Zucker, Chair, CC-Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (978-405-3231) if questions or problems arise during the course of the study.

**To give consent for your child to participate in Concord Consortium's Engineering Energy Efficiency study, sign and date this form and return it to your child's teacher.**

Consent to participate: Print student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Consent to take photos and video:

Print student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Consent to audio tape:

Print student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_