

Data privacy documentation for the Social inclusion survey research project: for participating students and their parents or guardians

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Research goals

The Social inclusion project's survey portion documents fifth graders' and their teachers' experiences of bias and marginalization. Further, the project measures performance in math, reading and social skills. The goals of the research are to provide a reliable research base detailing the experiences of bullying and marginalization, paying particular attention to the causes and consequences of student wellbeing, academic performance, and choices of educational paths. As part of the broader project, researchers will evaluate the effects of workshops run by Walter Ry that provide students and teachers with tools to tackle marginalization, offered in a number of the participating schools. The project is funded by the JPAL-European Social Inclusion Initiative.

Data collection and handling

The experiences of students will be collected with survey questionnaire based on survey measures from prior domestic and international assessments. These questionnaires will help chart student performance in math and reading, their social skills, interests and goals, understandings of marginalization, generalizations pertaining to particular groups, and the frequency of bullying at school. The survey also includes questions on background characteristics: the student's and their parents birth countries. Students born outside of Finland will be asked the age at which they moved to Finland.

This information will be gathered through a pair of surveys administered during both the fall and spring semesters. The surveys will be collected by the Finnish Education

Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) and the Center for Learning Analytics at the University of Turku. Additionally, it is possible that a further survey will be collected when these students are in middle school.

In order to administer the survey, the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre will ask schools to provide the names, student identification numbers, and school and class of all fifth-grade students. The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre will deliver this information to the Center for Learning Analytics at the University of Turku, who will administer the survey electronically. The Center for Learning Analytics at the University of Turku will then deliver the completed surveys to Statistics Finland. **All data will be transferred through a secure environment and access to the data is limited to particular individuals – bound by an obligation of confidentiality – within both organizations.**

The data collected in the survey will be supplemented with survey data from teachers as well as register data. Registry data on students will be gathered throughout their formal education, up until the end of the year that they turn 30 years old. Survey and register data will be used to study the educational paths through compulsory and tertiary education, career choices, employment, income and family status of students participating in the survey. The sources of this registry data on the student will be the Koski data-base and application registries maintained by the National Board of Education, registers maintained by schools, as well as registry-based research data maintained by Statistics Finland. The following student-level register-based background and follow-up data may be linked to the completed survey questionnaire: mother tongue, date and place of birth, gender, neighborhood identifier; grades, absences and discipline outcomes in comprehensive school; post-comprehensive school educational applications, admissions, and matriculation data; post-comprehensive education grades, progress, and degree obtainment; income, occupation, employment, workplace and neighborhood identifiers, place and date of birth of spouse, number of children and dates of birth. Additional variables from research registries maintained by Statistics Finland related to students' teachers and parents or guardians will be used in statistical analyses to provide statistical power and to perform heterogeneity analysis. Background information related to the parent or guardian includes gender, mother tongue, date and place of birth, date of migration to Finland (if born abroad), workplace and neighborhood identifiers, income, occupation, and education, as well as the number, ages, and genders of siblings. **Members of the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) and the Center for Learning Analytics at the University of Turku administering the research survey will not see linked registry data.**

Survey and registry-based data will be merged by Statistics Finland. After the data is merged, student names, student identifiers, person identifiers and other potential direct identifiers will be replaced with pseudo-identifiers, by which it will not be possible to identify individual students based on any of the direct identifiers. Direct identifiers will be kept apart from the rest of the data, and access to the direct identifiers will be restricted to employees of Statistics Finland whose employee responsibilities include the handling of such data. **Researchers will only have access to data that does not include direct student identifiers.**

The research group will analyze the research data in Statistics Finland's secure remote environment, which they can only access after being granted research access to this particular project. Direct identifiers and the other research data will not be

moved outside the EU and ETA. **It will be impossible to identify individuals or schools from published results from the research.**

Data storage and anonymisation

Statistics Finland will store the data until the research has been completed. After this point the datasets will be anonymized by destroying the information by which Statistics Finland would have been able to link the data to students participating in the survey research. The research will be determined to be complete two years after the related research articles are published.

The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) and the Centre for Learning Analytics at the University of Turku will store individual identifiers only until the data is delivered to Statistics Finland.

Basis for processing personal data

The basis for processing personal data is provided in the Data Protection Act 4 §: the objective of the processing is of public scientific research and the processing is proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued. The processing of personal data is meant to ensure credible evaluation and enable the production of scientific knowledge. The results of the research will be based on survey and register data. So that the research data can be used to produce credible results and draw conclusions meeting scientific criteria, necessitates the collection of background and follow up data on participants in the survey research as well as background data on their parents or guardians and teachers.

Rights of survey participants

As per the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), all survey participants have the right to:

- Receive information on the handling of their data
- Check the data collected on themselves
- Request the revision of their data
- Request the restriction of the analysis of their data
- Object to the analysis of their data
- To erase their data, if the data is handled unlawfully and is no longer required to promote the public good, to fulfill the aims of scientific research, and if the erasure of the data does not make it impossible to reach the aims of the scientific research or cause significant harm to the scientific research.

The following protections have been implemented:

- The handling and analysis of the data is based on the research plan
- The research has a responsible scientific leader (Matti Sarvimäki)

The additional precautions will also be taken:

- Aalto-university's scientific and ethical review board has made an ethical evaluation of the research project on the 17th of April, 2020.

- An impact evaluation of the necessity of individual data has been made (DPIA)
- Both the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre and the Centre for Learning Analytics at the University of Turku have made public documentation detailing the use of individual data.

The data that is collected will only be used for scientific research, and it will not be used to make any decisions related to research participants. Survey participants or their guardians can use their rights by contacting the research or data-security contact person.

Additional information on the research and rights of participants

If a survey participant or their guardian has questions or demands related to the processing of their data, they should contact Aalto university's data protection representative Anni Tuomela (email tietosuojavastaava@aalto.fi; puh: +358 9 47001). If a survey participant feels that their data has been handled in a manner not conforming with the data protection act, they have the right to make a complaint to an official responsible for Data Protection Supervision (more information at the following website: <http://www.tietosuoja.fi>).