**Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing**

**Institutional Review Board**

**(BRCN IRB)**

**Recommended and Preferred Template for Obtaining Assent**

**Children 14 to 17 Years of Age**

Participants who are minors (under the age of 18 and not legally emancipated) cannot give their *informed consent* to participate in a study. However, they may *assent* to participate in research. Assent is defined as “a child’s affirmative agreement to participate in research.” For this age group, the parental consent form includes a statement about obtaining assent and that their child will no longer be a participant when he/she states not wanting to participate in one or any of the research activities.

Before obtaining assent with this age group, a verbal explanation about the study’s research activities is given, using age-appropriate language. Assent is obtained by signing a form that is a simplified version of their parents’ informed consent. The form’s language is non-technical, jargon-free language, and is written at the eight grade reading/comprehension level.

The BRCN IRB recommends and prefers that the researcher use the template on the following page for obtaining assent from this age group. Depending on the characteristics of the study’s children and the nature if the study, the template can be modified.

Template

**Purpose of Research**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am a graduate student/professor at Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing and I am conducting a research study about teenagers’ perceptions of the California High School Exit exam. I am inviting you to participate in the research because you are a high school student in California.

**Research Procedures**

If you agree to participate, I will interview you at a time and location convenient for you. The interview will take about 30 minutes, and I will audiotape the interview to make sure I understand what you have said. If I need to clarify your statements, I will contact you after the interview by (email/phone/letter).

**Risks**

The only risk to you is a possible loss of privacy. To protect your privacy, I will keep the audiotapes and transcripts of the interviews in a locked cabinet in a secure location to ensure the confidentiality of the data. I will not use your name or any other identifying information in the research reports. At the end of the study, I will destroy the audiotapes, and will remove all identifying information from transcripts of the tapes.

**Benefits**

There is no direct benefit to you for taking part in the research. However, we hope that what we find may inform educators and administrators about students’ perceptions of the exit exam.

**Costs and Compensation**

There will be no costs to you other than your time and any personal transportation costs. You will not be paid for participation.

You have been given a copy of this consent to keep. If you have any questions about the research you may contact the researcher at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_\_ , or you may contact my advisor, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, at, \_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_ or the Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing Institutional Review Board at irb@brcn.edu or 217-228-5520.

Please note that participation in this research is voluntary. You may answer only those questions you want to answer, and you may stop participating at any point in the process with no penalty.

Participant’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participants Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from California State University East Bay