



September 6, 2013

Dear Families,

As we enter the final weeks of summer and prepare for a new school year, we bring you a very exciting update that will enhance the learning opportunities for your child in our Enfield Schools classrooms.

We are very proud to tell you that the Enfield Schools are the recipients of a very generous grant from The LEGO Foundation, LEGO Education and Enfield-based LEGO Systems, Inc. called the **Building Tomorrow Project**. This LEGO-based curriculum outreach program is designed to foster and develop any child's full learning and creative potential. The grant donates proven classroom solutions that are enriching and foster hands-on, minds-on learning so that children are prepared to build their own tomorrow, along with ongoing teacher training and development.

Each of our seven elementary schools will participate in the project. Parkman, Eli Whitney and Prudence Crandall schools will have a dedicated LEGO Creativity Center, supplied with all the materials needed to engage students. Children will learn everything from math and science to language arts and reading comprehension in new ways using five innovative LEGO Education classroom solutions combining LEGO sets designed for the classroom with relevant curriculum and teacher training.

LEGO Education empowers teachers to meet key STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) learning objectives while inspiring students to do and learn more both individually and collaboratively. The new LEGO Education curriculums have been integrated into the Enfield Public Schools curricula by teams of teachers for grades K, 2 & 4. These grades will begin implementation this fall. The remaining grades (1, 3, 5) will begin in 2014.

This 3-year pilot program will guide more than 125 of our classrooms and nearly 2,000 Enfield students in a new way of learning. Fifty-one of the K, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have received training and are very enthusiastic about their experience. LEGO Systems and The LEGO Foundation are providing a full-time dedicated educational advisor to the program, located right here in Enfield.

Studies will be conducted throughout the course of the program to measure the success of the project and provide opportunities for real-time tweaking as necessary. In addition to evaluating improvements in student attendance and test scores, the research will assess their growth in skills necessary to compete for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs including the ability to collaborate in teams, the advancement of their skills in creative problem solving and critical thinking and a demonstrated improvement in their written and oral communication skills.

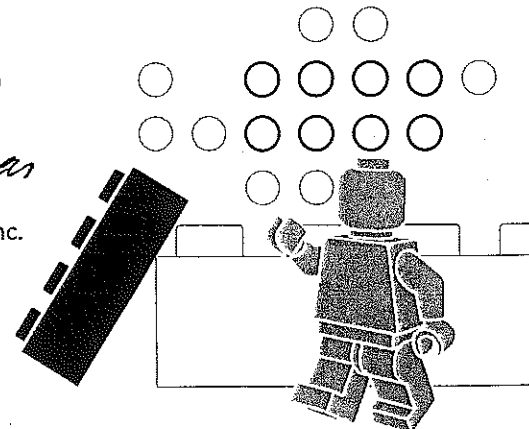
Thousands of schools throughout the U.S. use LEGO Education sets in the classroom. These schools consistently report success in several areas including student achievement, teacher motivation and overall school performance. We will be providing updates on the program later in the school year but in the interim, please address questions to Chief Academic Officer, Anne McKernan ([Amckernan@enfieldschools.org](mailto:Amckernan@enfieldschools.org)) in the administrative offices.

We hope that you are as excited by this news as our teachers and administrations are. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the administration office.

Regards,

Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann  
Superintendent of Schools

Søren Torp Laursen  
President, LEGO Systems, Inc.



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE  
BUILDING TOMORROW PROJECT!**

In this package, you will have received a letter from Dr. Jeffrey Schumann of Enfield School District and Mr. Soren Torp Laursen of Enfield-based LEGO Systems, Inc. about the Building Tomorrow Project. The project includes a research study being done by Goodman Research Group, Inc. (GRG), an educational research firm based in Cambridge, MA. Your child's classroom is one of 26 classrooms randomly selected to participate in the research. This letter outlines what is involved.

At the beginning and end of the year (September and May), your child will be asked to complete **two brief activities**:

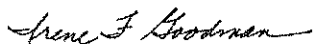
1. A 15-minute **survey** on his or her opinions about various school subjects, activities, and after-school activities he or she does for fun; typical questions include:
  - "Do you think it is better to keep quiet than give ideas that might be wrong?"
  - and
  - "How often do you feel excited about what you are learning in school?"
2. A brief **creative problem-solving task**

These activities will take place in class during a regular class period. Your child will not be graded on these activities; they are not tests, and there are no right or wrong answers. Completing the activities is voluntary, and responses are confidential.

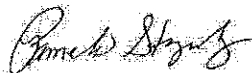
In addition, GRG will be **observing** participating classrooms twice during the year. Most of the observations will be in person; a small number of observations will be via classroom videos that LEGO Systems Inc. staff records. The observations will involve counting the number of students engaged in certain behaviors, such as collaborating with each other or telling a story. The other side of this form has more details about the research. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email Anne McKernan (Chief Academic Officer) for Enfield School District at [amckernan@enfieldschools.org](mailto:amckernan@enfieldschools.org) or 860-253-6549.

We hope you will encourage your child to participate so that his or her opinions can be included in this important research. **If you wish to have your child participate, you do not need to do anything further. However, if you do not wish to have your child participate in the survey and creative problem solving task, please return this letter to the main office of your child's school with your child's name, your name, and your signature (below).**

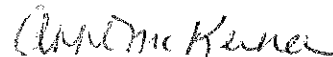
Thank you for your help!



Irene F. Goodman, Ed.D.  
GRG President and Founder



Pam Stazesky, Ph.D.  
GRG Research Associate



Anne McKernan  
Chief Academic Officer EPS

**Complete this section only if you do not want your child to participate in the survey and creative problem solving task.**

I do NOT wish to have my child (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ participate in the research. My child is in Grade \_\_\_\_\_.

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

Print your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please read this page for more details about the study procedures.

***We will protect your child's confidentiality.***

- To protect confidentiality, the research team will not directly link your child's survey and creative problem solving task responses to your child's name.
- Names are collected only for the purposes of allowing the research team to follow students from year to year.
- Only the GRG research team will have access to individual survey and creative problem solving task data. No parents/ guardians, teachers, principals, or school administrators will ever see student responses or the student ID numbers we assign.
- Only the GRG research team and the LEGO Systems Inc. staff will have access to videos. The videos will be used for the research only. Any further uses will require your explicit consent.
- Confidentiality of your and your child's responses will be maintained to the extent allowed by law.

***Participation in the research study is totally voluntary.***

- When we come to your child's class to administer the survey and creative problem solving task, your child will be asked if s/he wants to be part of this study, and s/he may refuse to participate or decide to withdraw his/her assent at any time during the study without any penalty or public recognition.
- Your decision on whether your child participates in this study will not affect your child's grades or future relations with your child's teacher or school.
- Your child will not be graded on the survey or creative problem solving task completed for this research study.

***You may withdraw your child from the study at any time.***

- If you decide to allow your child to participate, you will be free to withdraw him/her from the study at any time.
- Should you decide to withdraw your child, all of your child's data will be destroyed and erased from our electronic files.

***Benefits of Participating***

While your child will receive no direct monetary benefit from participating in this study, there are benefits to your child's school and to the field of research. For example, data collected through the student surveys will provide valuable information that the project team can use to continue improving the Building Tomorrow Project. In addition, this study may make a significant contribution to the field by understanding the impact of these activities on the development of children's thinking and creative problem solving.

***Risks of Participating in Our Study***

We do not anticipate any risks to your child from participating in this study. Some students feel stress or anxiety when filling out surveys. Researchers and teachers will make efforts to reassure students there are no right or wrong answers to the survey questions.

***Questions and Feedback***

We appreciate hearing your questions, concerns or feedback about the LEGO® Building Tomorrow Project research.