

September 27, 2023

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

This fall in your school district and in other districts around the state, 6th, 8th, and 11th graders will take the 2023 Iowa Youth Survey. For decades, Iowa superintendents, teachers and parents have supported participation in the Iowa Youth Survey. Hundreds of thousands of Iowa youth have shared information about their health-related experiences over the years.

The survey will be conducted September 25 through November 3, 2023. The survey is optional. Students are asked about many topics on the survey, such as: nutrition, exercise and sleep habits; mental health; use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; bullying, harassment and social violence; activities, volunteering, and school and adult support. There are no questions about sexual behavior and the sixth-grade version of the survey complies with state laws about age-appropriate content. The survey will take one class period or around 40 minutes to Complete.

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services collects the responses from the survey to analyze the data so we can make decisions, seek funding, and set policy focused on improving the lives of Iowa's students. We may also share responses with partners that support our efforts in this work. Student responses are confidential. Names, birthdates and student numbers are not collected.

Participating in this survey will cause little or no risk to your student. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be uncomfortable to answer. Students can skip questions they do not want to answer or stop the survey at any time. Students who choose not to do the survey will do another activity during the survey class period. There is no penalty for anyone who decides not to participate.

If you have questions about the survey, please contact your school principal or superintendent, or send an email to iowayouthsurvey@idph.iowa.gov. A copy of the Iowa Youth Survey will be available at the school office and/or District Office and is also posted online at the Iowa Youth Health Assessment Program page at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/php/iowa-Youth-Health-Assessment-Program>.

If you do not want your student to take the survey, you do not need to do anything. Only students who have parent permission will participate.

If you do want your student to participate, please complete the form on the back side of this page.

Permission Form

I have read the information provided. I understand that my student(s) participation in the survey is *voluntary*. I also understand that I can review the survey online, at the school office and/or District Administration Office. I understand and agree that the information may be shared with approved organizations in a manner that ensures the confidentiality of individual students who have taken the survey.

I **do** want my student(s) listed below to participate in the 2023 Iowa Youth Survey. If they do not choose to participate, I understand that another activity will be provided for them during the survey time. I understand that my permission needs to be received by the school system no later than October 20, 2023.

Please return this form to the building principal.

Names of student(s) who **will** participate in the 2023 Iowa Youth Survey:

Student Name Grade

Student Name Grade

Student Name Grade

Student Name Grade

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Date