

Student Survey Assent Form

For Baltimore survey participants

Student Survey Assent Form

What am I being asked to do?

We are asking you to participate in a research study – conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - about middle school students, including what they do, what they think about things, and their relationships with other people, including people they date or with whom they hang out. The purpose of this study is to help us learn more about these things and help us know how different programs in your school are working so that we can improve these programs for future students.

You were selected to receive an invitation to participate in this study because you are currently enrolled at this school. Although some of the questions in this survey ask about relationships with boyfriends and/or girlfriends, you do not need to have a current or past boyfriend or girlfriend to participate in this study.

Your parent has to consent for you to participate in this survey if you are under 18 years of age. With your parent's permission, we would also collect some information from your school records, like grades, absences and discipline records. We will protect this information and keep it private also. We want to collect information from your school records to reduce the number of questions that we need to include on the survey. Also, some questions are difficult to answer (for example, how many days of school you might have missed this past year) but are easily answered by looking at your school records.

What will I be doing?

We are asking you to fill out surveys about things you do, what you think about things, and your relationships with other people, including boyfriends or girlfriends or people you hang out with. There will also be questions about sensitive topics like sex, violence, and drug use, but you can skip any question if you do not want to answer it. We will do the surveys two times a year, at the beginning and end of the school year, while you are in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, and at the end of the school year once you are in high school. We will also get some information from your school records, but we will keep this private just like your survey answers. Your school will not collect, see, or keep any surveys.

Who will see my answers?

Your answers and any information we get from your school are *confidential*. That is a big word that means that your answers and information are totally private. Your parents, your teachers, and your friends will never see your answers. Only the researcher will see your answers. After the researcher leaves the school, they'll store your answers with a code instead of your name, so after that they won't know whose answers are whose. We have something called a "Certificate of Confidentiality." That means that even if your parents or anyone else demanded to see your answers, we would say no and be protected by law.

The only exception to this is if you verbally tell us that you are planning to hurt yourself or someone else, or if you tell us that someone, either an adult or child is hurting you. Then we will have to tell someone so we can get help.

The information we collect could be really helpful to other researchers who are trying to improve the lives of teenagers too. Since this study is funded by the Centers for Disease Control, which is part of the government, the information we collect will be made available to other researchers who are

interested in whether the programs we are conducting work and how teenagers think and act. However, no information that could be used to identify you will be released to other researchers—that means that there won't be any way for the researchers to know that you participated in this study or know how you answered the questions.

What if I don't know the answers?

Some of the questions may be about things you've never thought about before. Some of the questions may seem like they don't apply to you. That is fine—just give the best answer you can. There are no right or wrong answers.

How will the researchers contact me to do the next survey?

We will collect some information from you that will help us stay in contact with you. We will ask things like your address and phone number so we can send you cards in the mail and call you, and for some names and numbers of people who would know how to contact you if you move. We will keep this information totally private and separate from your survey and school record information. It's just so we can contact you again.

Do I have to do this?

No, you don't. You can say that you don't want to do the survey and that is fine. You won't get in trouble, and it won't affect your grades. You can also choose not to answer certain questions even if you do the surveys. If you choose not to do the survey, your teacher will give you some other work to do while your classmates fill out the survey. Also, you may complete the survey but tell us not to collect information from your school records on your grades, absences and discipline records.

What if the questions are upsetting?

We don't think you'll be upset by filling out the survey, but if you are, the school counselor is available to talk to and to help. You can also talk to your parents or another adult about the survey. We will also give you a list of places in your community you can call to get help with any of the problems we ask about on the survey.

Are there any benefits to participating?

There are no direct benefits for participating in this research study. However, you may benefit from knowing that your participation has the potential to help future middle school and high school students because the data collected will be used to improve instructional materials that would help teenagers have healthy and safe relationships with peers and dating partners.

Thanks so much!

Even though you don't have to participate, we really hope you will. You are the expert, and we are hoping to learn from you. If you have any questions about this study, you may contact NORC or have your parents contact NORC at 1-877-388-6369 or via e-mail at eval@norc.org. For additional information regarding the rights of human participants in research, you may contact the NORC IRB Manager, toll-free at 1-866-309-0542. A description of this clinical trial will be available on <http://www.ClinicalTrials.gov>, as required by U.S. Law. This Web site will not include information that can identify you. At most, the Web site will include a summary of the results. You can search this Web site at any time.

_____ I agree to participate in the study. I understand this means that I will fill out surveys a few times a year in middle school and maybe once a year in high school. The researchers may also get information from my school records. My answers will be kept totally private; no one else besides the researcher will ever see them. I understand I don't have to answer any question I don't want to.

_____ I do not agree to participate in the study. I understand that this means that I will do some other work while my classmates fill out the survey.

Name

Date

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For Broward survey participants

Student Survey Assent Form

What am I being asked to do?

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Your parent has to consent for you to participate in this survey if you are under 18 years of age. With your parent's permission, we would also collect some information from your school records, like grades, absences and discipline records. We will protect this information and keep it private also. We want to collect information from your school records to reduce the number of questions that we need to include on the survey. Also, some questions are difficult to answer (for example, how many days of school you might have missed this past year) but are easily answered by looking at your school records.

What will I be doing?

We are asking you to fill out surveys about things you do, what you think about things, and your relationships with other people, including boyfriends or girlfriends or people you hang out with. There will also be questions about sensitive topics like sex, violence, and drug use, but you can skip any question if you do not want to answer it. We will do the surveys two times a year, at the beginning and end of the school year, while you are in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, and at the end of the school year once you are in high school. We will also get some information from your school records, but we will keep this private just like your survey answers. Your school will not collect, see, or keep any surveys.

Who will see my answers?

Your answers and any information we get from your school are confidential. That is a big word that means that your answers and information are totally private. Your parents, your teachers, and your friends will never see your answers. Only the researcher will see your answers. After the researcher leaves the school, they'll store your answers with a code instead of your name, so after that they won't know whose answers are whose. We have something called a "Certificate of Confidentiality." That means that even if your parents or anyone else demanded to see your answers, we would say no and be protected by law.

The only exception to this is if you verbally tell us that you are planning to hurt yourself or someone else, or if you tell us that someone, either an adult or child is hurting you. Then we will have to tell someone so we can get help.

The information we collect could be really helpful to other researchers who are trying to improve the lives of teenagers too. Since this study is funded by the Centers for Disease Control, which is part of the government, the information we collect will be made available to other researchers who are interested in whether the programs we are conducting work and how teenagers think and act. However, no information that could be used to identify you will be released to other researchers—

that means that there won't be any way for the researchers to know that you participated in this study or know how you answered the questions.

What if I don't know the answers?

Some of the questions may be about things you've never thought about before. Some of the questions may seem like they don't apply to you. That is fine—just give the best answer you can. There are no right or wrong answers.

How will the researchers contact me to do the next survey?

For most students they will fill out the next survey in their classroom next semester. However, if you move out of your current school, but within the same school district, we will forward the survey to the principal of your new school. We will collect the survey directly from you using a postage-paid return envelope addressed to NORC. The completed survey will be returned to NORC using this envelope. The school will not collect, see or keep the survey. Also, if you move to another school district in another city we will send the survey package to your last known address. To contact you if you move we will need to collect some information from you that will help us stay in contact with you if the above approach does not work. We will ask things like your address and phone number so we can send you cards in the mail and call you, and for some names and phone numbers of people who would know how to contact you if you move (such as a family member). We will keep this information totally private and separate from your survey and school record information. It's just so we can contact you again.

Do I have to do this?

No, you don't. You can say that you don't want to do the survey and that is fine. You won't get in trouble, and it won't affect your grades. You can also choose not to answer certain questions even if you do the surveys. If you choose not to do the survey, your teacher will give you some other work to do while your classmates fill out the survey.

What if the questions are upsetting?

We don't think you'll be upset by filling out the survey, but if you are, the school counselor is available to talk to and to help. You can also talk to your parents or another adult about the survey. We will also give you a list of places in your community you can call to get help with any of the problems we ask about on the survey.

Are there any benefits to participating?

There are no direct benefits to participating in this research study. However, you may benefit from knowing that your participation has the potential to help future middle school and high school students have healthy and safe relationships with peers and dating partners.

Thanks so much!

Even though you don't have to participate, we really hope you will. You are the expert, and we are hoping to learn from you. If you have any questions about this study, you may contact NORC at 1-877-388-6369 or via e-mail at eval@norc.org. For additional information regarding the rights of human participants in research, you may contact the NORC IRB Manager, toll-free at 1-866-309-0542. A description of this clinical trial will be available on <http://www.ClinicalTrials.gov>, as required by U.S. Law. This Web site will not include information that can identify you. At most, the Web site will include a summary of the results. You can search this Web site at any time.

- Yes, I agree to participate in the survey. I understand this means that I will fill out surveys a few times a year in middle school and maybe once a year in high school. The researchers may also get information from my school records. My answers will be kept totally private; no one else besides the researchers will ever see them, except when we are required to report verbal reports of child abuse to authorities, whether committed by an adult or by a child, or in the event that you are planning to hurt yourself or someone else. I understand I don't have to answer any question I don't want to.**

- For eligible students¹ only: Yes, I agree to participate in the survey and agree to the release of my home address, phone number, school records on my grades, absences and discipline actions taken against me by the school.**

- For eligible students only: Yes, I agree to participate in the survey but do not agree to the release of my home address, phone number, school records on my grades, absences and discipline actions taken against me by the school.**

- do not agree to participate in the study. I understand that this means that I will do some other work while my classmates fill out the survey.**

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Printed Name

¹ Eligible student is a student who has reached the age of 18 years of age or has been emancipated under Florida Laws.

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For Chicago survey participants

Student Survey Assent Form

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Who will see my answers?

Your answers and any information we get from your school are confidential. That is a big word that means that your answers and information are totally private. Your parents, your teachers, and your friends will never see your answers. Only the researcher will see your answers. After the researcher leaves here, they'll store your answers with a code instead of your name, so after that they won't know whose answers are whose. We have something called a "Certificate of Confidentiality." That means that even if your parents or anyone else demanded to see your answers, we would say no and be protected by law.

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What if I don't know the answers?

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Name

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For Oakland survey participants

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