

## YRBS Survey Fact Sheet for Principals and Parents

**Q. Why is the survey being done?**

**A.** The Tennessee State Department of Education will use the survey results to help measure how many youth practice health risk behaviors. The survey results also will be used to create school health programs to help reduce these behaviors.

**Q. My school has been promised compensation if it administers and returns the YRBS. How will my school receive this compensation?**

**A.** The State Department of Education will send the school system **\$600.00** with instructions that your school is to receive the money. The Department will follow-up with each principal to ensure the money is credited to your school. The money will be dispersed via the FACTS system.

**Q. Are sensitive questions asked?**

**A.** Yes. Some questions are sensitive. AIDS, HIV infection, and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are major health problems. Sexual intercourse and intravenous drug use are behaviors that increase the risk of getting AIDS. The only way to learn if youth are at risk of getting AIDS is to ask questions about these behaviors. Attempted suicide, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, and weapon-carrying also may be sensitive topics. Questions are written in a direct but sensitive way.

**Q. Do students have to answer every question on the survey form?**

**A.** No. Students who have parental permission to take the survey may skip any question they deem sensitive. The Department does not wish to cause embarrassment to any student. Even a partially completed survey can be returned and used by the Department.

**Q. Is parental permission required before a student is administered the YRBS?**

**A.** Yes. A student cannot participate in the YRBS without parental permission. A suggested parent notification form will be supplied to the school for its use.

**Q. Will students' names be used or linked to the surveys? Will my school be publicly identified?**

**A.** No. The survey has been designed to protect student and school privacy. Students do not put their name on the survey. Participating schools remain confidential. Code numbers are assigned to participating schools and are used for administrative purposes.

**Q. Do students take the survey more than once to see how their behaviors change?**

**A.** No. Every two years a new sample of schools and students is picked. Students who take part one year cannot be tracked because their names are not on the survey.

**Q. How was my school picked to be in the survey?**

**A.** 54 schools were selected randomly by computer to participate in the 2007 YRBS.

**Q. How long does it take to fill out the survey? Does the survey include a physical test?**

- A.** One class period is needed to fill out the survey, which has 87 questions. The survey does not include a physical test or exam. The survey may be administered at the convenience of the school prior to April 30, 2007.
- Q. Do outside people come into my school to administer the YRBS?**
- A.** No, we ask the principal to designate a survey administrator from within the school. The Department then sends detailed instructions for survey administration to the designated person and gives technical support to the survey administrator via phone, email, or fax.
- Q. Can I see the questions my students will be asked?**
- A.** Yes, the 2007 YRBS survey is enclosed with your invitation letter.
- Q. Who supports this survey?**
- A.** This survey is supported by the Tennessee State Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of State Boards of Education, the National School Boards Association, the Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, and the American Association of School Administrators.
- Q. Will my entire school be surveyed?**
- A.** No, only 1-3 **2<sup>nd</sup> period** classes in your school will be surveyed. The Department will choose which classes based on information received from your school. Random class selection is made by computer.
- Q. Are the results of the YRBS released to the public?**
- A.** Yes. The results of the 2007 YRBS will be available to the public in the fall of 2007 via the media and the Department's website. Participating schools are not identified.
- Q. Can past YRBS results be viewed?**
- A.** Yes. Past YRBS results may be viewed at [www.k-12.state.tn.us/yrbs](http://www.k-12.state.tn.us/yrbs)
- Q. Are the results of the YRBS disaggregated?**
- A.** No. This is a statewide survey. If participation is high, the results of the survey will represent all students in Tennessee in grades 9-12, even schools not selected to participate in the survey.

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