Thetford ACADEMY

Youth Risk Behavior Survey - Parent Notification Letter

February 3, 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our school is taking part in the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey on Feb. 14 during Advisory. This survey was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is sponsored by the Vermont Department of Health and Agency of Education. The YRBS has been administered every other year in Vermont since 1993. Separate versions of the survey ask middle or high school students about health behaviors and assets or protective factors. Topics include personal safety and injury prevention, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, sexual health, substance use, and protective factors.

Results from the YRBS help us determine the extent to which adolescents engage in or experience health risk behaviors. The results from the YRBS support public health officials, educators, and community organizations ability to assess and improve efforts to reduce health risk behaviors among adolescents throughout the state and nation. They help us develop and evaluate health-related programs and secure their future funding.

The YRBS is anonymous. It has been designed to be confidential and to protect your child's privacy. Students will not put their names on the survey and student login information is not recorded. Individual survey responses will not be revealed in a report of the results or disclosed to any school employee.

For this survey to be accurate, it is important that all students, regardless of whether they have engaged in health-risk behaviors, are given an opportunity to participate in the survey. We would like all students to take part in the survey to best understand the issues and experiences of youth, however, the survey is voluntary. Students may skip any questions they do not wish to answer or stop taking the survey at any point without penalty. As a parent, you have the right to view the survey before it is administered and to have your child opt out. A copy of the survey is available on the Department of Health YRBS webpage. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Kara Toms.

Please visit the Vermont Department of Health website at: https://www.healthvermont.gov/ for more information about the Vermont YRBS including previous reports. Links to the CDC's YRBS page, FAQs, and other background information are available by clicking "Learn more about the YRBS" on the website.

Should you decide to opt your child out of taking the survey, please complete the following form and return it to Tippi Oshoniyi in the Counseling Department by Monday, Feb. 13, 2023.

Sincerely,

Carrie Brennan

Carrie Brennan

Youth Risk Behavior Survey - Opt-Out Form

Please complete this form only if you DO NOT want your child to participate in the survey. The form must be returned to Tippi Oshoniyi in the Counseling Department by Monday, February 13.

Student's first and last name (print):
Grade:

I have read the parent notification letter and understand what the survey is about.

[ ] NO, my child may **not** take part in the 2023 Vermont YRBS.

Parent or Guardian's name (print):

Parent or Guardian's signature:

Date:

Phone number: