



Hinckley-Big Rock High
School

Ready to go...

The Illinois Youth Survey

The middle school and high school years are an important time of identity formation for our children. As they grow older and make these transitions in their educational experience, they are also forming new friendships and trying to find their place among their peers. This is a great time of learning and growth but also a challenging time that can lead young people to take unhealthy risks. As a school district we want to ensure that we are aware of the trends both locally and across the state related to student risk behaviors such as drug and alcohol use in order to better support those students who struggle in these areas.

What is the Illinois Youth Survey?

The Illinois Youth Survey is a statewide student survey on substance abuse and related issues. It is conducted through schools with grade levels 8, 10, and 12 every even year in the spring. The Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois coordinates the survey at no cost to schools throughout the state. 231,770 students across the state participated in the survey in 2018.

(<https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/>)

Types of Questions on the Illinois Youth Survey

- Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use
- Beliefs about drug use
- Health and nutritional behaviors
- Feelings about school
- Family support and rules about alcohol use

What is the survey data used for once it is collected?

The survey provides local reports to schools and communities so that they have the information they need to identify and begin to address local concerns related to substance abuse issues. The results are also used to help guide the work and funding priorities of community prevention services. In addition, the survey findings are utilized for a statewide report that provides an estimate for several health and social indicators for the state of Illinois.

Why are we as a district participating in the survey?

Participating in the survey is one way for us to partner with others in our community and across Illinois who are working to support our young people and help them achieve success in school and in their lives beyond the classroom. One of the specific challenges we face in our community is the local impact of the

growing e-cigarette (vaping) trend. The Illinois Youth Survey is one of the sources of data that has been utilized to identify this growing trend among young people and help make it a priority for new programs and new funding related to addressing this issue. We will be utilizing some of these new resources at Hinckley-Big Rock High School to address the vaping issue.

For further information about the Illinois Youth Survey please visit:

<https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/faqs/parent>

What if I do not want my child to participate?

If you do not want your child to participate in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to the school by January 10, 2022.

Illinois Youth Survey Parent Opt-Out Form

If you do **not** want your child to complete the survey, return this form with your signature to the high school office. The Illinois Youth Survey coordinator will ensure that your child does not participate. You do not need to complete this form if you are allowing your child to participate.

_____ I do **not** want my child to participate in the Illinois Youth Survey.

Student's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____