

***Sharon Langford***  
**Gilchrist County Truancy Officer**

January 06, 2020  
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Robert Rankin, Superintendent  
Subject: Florida Youth Survey

The Florida Department of Health is conducting the 20th Florida Youth Survey. Both Trenton and Bell Middle/High have been selected for participation in the 2020 Florida Youth Survey. Gilchrist County will be participating in the electronic version.

The purpose of this survey is to meet the program planning and evaluation needs of diverse entities such as Florida Department of Education's Safe and Healthy Schools, Florida Department of Children and Families' Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and FDOH's Tobacco Free Florida Program. Additionally, the results are useful as part of planning for and instruction in comprehensive health education. It is critical to national, state, and local program planning and evaluation that your school and students participate in this important survey.

The proposed plan is to administer the survey to middle and high schools classes during one period of class. The survey administration window is from January 27<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. A passive parental permission form will be sent home to all middle and high school classes that will be selected to participate.

Assistance may also be provided by Quit Doc and the Health Department, if needed.

I am requesting that we move forward with our plans to conduct the survey on any given day during the administration window and to use the passive parental permission form. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Sharon Langford  
Survey Coordinator

## Parental Permission Form

Our school is participating in the 2020 Florida Youth Survey sponsored by the Department of Health, and the Department of Children and Families. There are two versions of the survey. **The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey** provides information for evaluating the impact of Florida's innovative program to prevent and reduce tobacco use. **The Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey** provides important information on alcohol and other drug use, attitudes and behaviors, as well as risk and protective factors that affect substance abuse behaviors, as well as adverse childhood experiences. Your child will be asked to complete one of the two versions. Students may skip any question they do not wish to answer. They also may stop answering questions at any point during the survey. A copy of the survey is available for your review at the school.

The 2020 Florida Youth Survey has been approved by state and local school officials and has the support of statewide organizations, including the Governor's Office, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and the Department of Children and Families.

**Risk and Benefits of Your Child's Participation:** Completing this web-administered survey poses no risk to your child. Survey procedures have been designed to protect your child's privacy and allow for anonymous participation. Students will not enter their names on the surveys. No school or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results. There will be no action against you or your child if your child does not participate. Participating in this survey will not directly benefit your child. However, the information collected will be used to better evaluate and plan such programs designed to prevent risky behaviors among Florida's youth.

Please read the section below. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE SCHOOL WITHIN THREE DAYS. Please see the other side of this form for additional information. If you have any questions please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand this form concerning the Florida Youth Survey:

My child does **not** have my permission to participate.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2020 FLORIDA YOUTH SURVEY SURVEY FACT SHEET**

**Q. How will survey results be used?**

A. The Florida Department of Health and the Department of Children and Families, as well as local health and education agencies will use the results from the survey to design, implement and evaluate comprehensive programs that work to prevent young people from engaging in behaviors that put them at risk for health problems now and in the future.

**Q. Will student participation be anonymous? Will student privacy be protected?**

A. Yes. Survey administration procedures have been designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. Students will not put their names or other identifying information on the questionnaires.

**Q. Will certain students be surveyed again to see how their behavior changes?**

A. No. Each time the survey is conducted, a new random sample of schools and students will be drawn. It will be impossible to track students who participate because no identifying information will be collected.

**Q. How was my child selected?**

A. Students were selected randomly to participate statewide. More than 150,000 students from more than 747 middle schools and high schools throughout Florida have been randomly selected to participate. Entire classes were selected rather than specific students.

**Q. How long will it take to fill out the questionnaire?**

A. One class period (45 minutes) is needed for completing the questionnaire.

**Q. Can parents review a copy of the questionnaires?**

A. Yes, copies of the questionnaires are available at your child's school and are available for your review.

**Q. Does the survey have statewide support?**

A. Yes. The 2020 Florida Youth Survey has been approved by state and local school officials and has the support of statewide organizations, including the Governor's office, the Governor's Office of Drug Control, the Department of Health, and the Department of Children and Families.