



## OPT-OUT LETTER

Our school is taking part in the Northeast Ohio Youth Health Survey. This anonymous survey is sponsored by the Stark County Health Department and Ohio Department of Health, with technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The survey is designed to help understand the mental health of students in Northeast Ohio. The survey will ask about the health behaviors of 7th through 12th grade students. The survey is anonymous and will ask about life experiences, mental health, substance use, and resiliency.

Students will be asked to fill out a survey that takes about 20 minutes to complete.

The findings from this survey will help public health and school officials advance and develop important programs to support students. As a result, this survey may benefit your child and other children in the future. Doing this online survey will cause little or no risk to your child. The only potential risk is that some students may find certain questions to be sensitive.

The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy; the survey is completely anonymous. Students will not put their names on the survey. Individual responses will not be shared with teachers or school administrators. We would like all students to take part in the survey, but the survey is voluntary. No action will be taken against the school, you, or your child, if your child does not take part. Students can skip any questions that they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop participating in the survey at any time without penalty. If you would like to see the survey, a copy is available in your child's school office.

Please read the section below and check the box **only if you do not** want your child to take part in the survey. If you check the box "no," sign the form and return it to the school by [INSERT DATE HERE]. Please see the other side of this form for more facts about the survey. Thank you.

---

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read this form and know what the survey is about.

**NO**, my child may **not** take part in this survey.

Parent or guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>This form only needs to be signed and returned if you do NOT want your child to participate.</b></p>
--

## **SURVEY FACT SHEET**

**Q. Why is the Northeast Ohio Youth Health Survey being done?**

A. To better understand how to improve mental health in our community, the Stark County Health Department, Ohio Department of Health and representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created the Northeast Ohio Youth Health Survey to learn about mental health among Northeast Ohio's youth. Survey results will guide suicide prevention initiatives and programs to improve mental health among youth in Stark County and surrounding counties.

**Q. Are sensitive questions asked?**

A. Yes. Some questions might be considered sensitive. The only way to determine if adolescents are experiencing mental health challenges is to ask questions about these behaviors. Past life experiences, alcohol and other drug use also might be considered sensitive topics. Questions are presented in a straightforward and sensitive manner in recognition of these topics.

**Q. Will student names be used or linked to the surveys?**

A. No. The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Specially trained staff and teachers will administer the survey in each school. Students do not put their name on the survey. Teachers and school administrators do not have access to survey data. Survey responses will only be reviewed by public health professionals.

**Q. How was my child selected to be in the survey?**

A. All students at schools affiliated with the Stark County Educational Service Center in grades 7-12 are being asked to participate in the survey.

**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. The survey does not include a physical test or exam.

**Q. Can I see the questions my child will be asked?**

A. Yes, a copy of the survey is available at your child's school office.

**Q. What resources will be available for students after taking the survey?**

A. Mental health counselors will be available at the school on the day of the survey. All students participating in the survey will be given a list of mental health resources.