

October 7, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Fairfax County School Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors work together to administer the Fairfax County Youth Survey. The results of this survey are published each year on <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health-humanservices/fairfax-county-youth-survey> and are used by school officials, youth leadership classes, youth-serving county agencies, and local non-profits to determine the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs offered in schools and communities. It is also used to identify changing trends and areas of need.

A shortened survey has been created for students who may not have participated in past surveys due to their special education needs to ensure that their voices can also be heard. The shortened version asks students questions regarding their experience at school, their sense of safety, and their knowledge of where to turn for help, if needed. It also asks students questions about bullying, sexual harassment, and other forms of harassment or discrimination they may experience. The students do not put their names on the survey, and no individual information is reported. The survey will be given to students in grades 8, 10, and 12 by their special education teachers.

You have the right to preview the survey and may deny permission for your child to participate if you desire. If a student is uncomfortable with any question on the survey, the student does not have to answer that question or may elect to discontinue the survey. While it is hoped that as many students as possible will participate, you have the option of completing the attached form if you wish to opt out your child.

The survey will be administered between November 7 and November 22, 2022. A copy of the survey will be available to parents and/or guardians online at <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness/youth-survey> and in the school counseling office of your child's school beginning October 7, 2022.

If you do not wish for your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school counselor no later than November 7, 2022.

If you have questions about the survey, please contact Stefan Mascoll, coordinator, Student Safety and Wellness Office, at 571-423-4270.

Sincerely,



Michelle C. Reid, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

MCR/nb
Attachment

**2022 Fairfax County Youth Survey
OPT-OUT FORM**

Complete this form **only** if you **do not** wish for your child to participate in the survey. Return it to your child's school counselor no later than November 7, 2022.

I do not give permission for my child to participate in the confidential *2022 Fairfax County Youth Survey*. I understand that my child will be assigned to an alternative activity during the administration of the survey.

Student's Name (please print): _____

Student's School (please print): _____ Grade: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____