

Dear Parents:

Our school will soon be administering the *Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey**. This survey is taken by 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade students statewide. I believe this survey is a valuable tool to help us understand how students behave, think and feel about alcohol, marijuana and other drug use, bullying and school safety. The KCTC survey measures teen substance use, delinquency, and related problem behaviors and the factors that predict those problems in schools and communities. In addition, it provides a baseline for participation in, perception of, and attitudes toward positive behavior. The survey gives us insight into the problems students face and shows what we can do to help them succeed. The information is essential for planning effective prevention programs in our school and community and provides data for local and state grant funding and reporting.

The survey is available to view at <http://tiny.cc/kctcsurvey>. You may also be interested to know the following:

1. **It is completely anonymous.** Students will not be asked for their names on the questionnaire, nor will anyone be able to connect any individual student with his/her responses. School staff will not see any one student's responses, but only summaries of results. To further guarantee anonymity, results will not be reported on any particular question without sufficient response from enough students.

2. **Participation is entirely voluntary.** Your child may decline to participate in the survey, or may simply skip any particular question they do not wish to answer.

3. **Annual participation is important.** Even if your child has participated in previous surveys, annual data is extremely helpful in determining the effectiveness of previous efforts and changes in program areas.

I hope you will allow your child to participate. Please check the appropriate box below. **All parents must sign and return this form to school.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mark Penka, Principal

Please check one:

Yes, I give permission for my child to participate in the *Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey*.

No, I do not give permission for my child to participate in the *Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey*.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Printed Name of Child

Date

*The survey is provided by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Behavioral Health Services and administered by the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center Grants and Evaluation Department.

Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) Student Survey Information for Parents



Overview

The Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) student survey measures teen substance use, delinquency, and related problem behaviors and the risk and protective factors that predict those problems in communities. The KCTC survey tracks teen use of harmful substances such as alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. In addition, the survey provides a baseline for participation in, perception of, and attitudes toward positive behavior. It provides knowledge about risk and protective factors that influence behavior, attitudes and opinions of Kansas teens. Learn more about how the KCTC benefits our communities and our schools at <http://tiny.cc/kctcvideo>.

1. Why is this survey important?

The KCTC student survey provides schools with data for developing a school profile and strategic plan. Many KCTC districts use their reports as needs assessments to gauge what is working and what needs work in their schools. Districts can then look into programming to address weaknesses and enhance strengths, and evaluate the effectiveness of current programming. Districts can use the data when seeking funding for programming. It can also be used to show positive trends or attributes within a building, grade, or district. To view county and state data go to www.kctcdata.org.

The KCTC provides communities and agencies structure in making informed decisions concerning prevention services through annual surveys. This survey is used by state agencies, counties, schools and communities in Kansas to monitor the incidence and prevalence of adolescent problem behaviors and the environmental factors that put children at risk or protect them from developing those behaviors.

2. Is the information confidential?

- The survey is completely anonymous
- Students are not asked for their names or other personally identifiable information on the questionnaire
- No one can connect any student with his/her responses
- School staff do not see any one student's responses

3. What questions are asked?

To view the questions, go to <http://tiny.cc/kctcsurvey>.

4. Who uses the data? What is it for?

There are many community organizations (e.g., United Way, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, Kansas Children's Service League, Communities In Schools, Juvenile Justice Authority, and community coalitions) counting on annual survey data to apply for or evaluate grant funding that directly and indirectly benefits students.

5. How much time does the survey take from the school day?

The survey will take approximately 50 minutes to complete and will be administered during a single class period.

6. Who pays for the survey?

This survey is funded through the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and is available free of charge to all districts.

7. How long has the survey been offered in Kansas?

The survey has been administered annually in Kansas since 1995.