

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

This fall in your school district and in other districts around the state, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the 2023 Iowa Youth Survey. For decades, Iowa superintendents, teachers and parents have supported participation in the Iowa Youth Survey. Hundreds of thousands of Iowa youth have shared information about their health-related experiences over the years.

The survey will be conducted September 25 through November 3, 2023. The survey is optional. Students are asked about many topics on the survey, such as: nutrition, exercise and sleep habits; mental health; use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; bullying, harassment and social violence; activities and volunteering and, school and adult support. There are no questions about sexual behavior and the sixth-grade version of the survey complies with state laws about age-appropriate content. The survey will take one class period or around 40 minutes to complete.

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services collects the responses from the survey to analyze the data so we can make decisions, seek funding, and set policy focused on improving the lives of Iowa's students. We may also share responses with partners that support our efforts in this work. Student responses are confidential. Names, birthdates and student numbers are not collected.

Additionally, the Healthy Delaware County Coalition will be conducting the Drug Free Communities Grant Core Measures Survey during this time. This survey asks students similar questions to those presented on the Iowa Youth Survey regarding alcohol, substance use, and mental health. Again, this survey collects responses to allow the coalition to make decisions on how to best allocate funding and efforts to serve youth in the county, and to improve the overall health and wellbeing of Delaware County students lives. Student responses are confidential and anonymous. No personal identifying information is collected.

Participating in this survey will cause little or no risk to your student. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be uncomfortable to answer. Students can skip questions they do not want to answer or stop the survey at any time. Students who choose not to do the survey will do another activity during the survey class period. There is no penalty for anyone who decides not to participate.

If you have questions about the survey, please contact your school principal or superintendent, or send an email to [iowayouthsurvey@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:iowayouthsurvey@idph.iowa.gov). A copy of the Iowa Youth Survey will be available at the school office and/or District Office and is also posted online at the [Iowa Youth Health Assessment Program](#) page.

