

Dear Parent:

The Utah State Office of Education; Department of Health; and Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health are conducting the sixth Student Health And Risk Prevention (SHARP) Survey. Your child's class may be selected to participate in this survey. Students whose classes have been selected will be asked to complete **ONE** of the following two questionnaires: the Prevention Needs Assessment (**PNA**) Survey or the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (**YRBS**) during **February or March of 2013**. The two questionnaires are described below.

**Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Survey.** The **PNA** survey measures alcohol, tobacco, and drug use; the factors that place students at risk for problem behaviors; and the factors that protect students from problem behaviors. Information gained from the survey will allow your school district and the State of Utah to continue to provide comprehensive prevention programs for our schools and children.

**Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).** The **YRBS** survey measures alcohol, tobacco, and drug use; antisocial behaviors; health behaviors; and school safety. This survey is only administered to students in grades 9 through 12.

According to Utah law, students' parents must give their permission before the student can participate in the survey. You need to be aware that:

- (1) Your child's participation is completely voluntary and confidential.
- (2) If your child does not participate he or she will not be penalized or lose any school benefits to which he or she is otherwise entitled.
- (3) Your child may discontinue the survey or skip any or all questions on the survey without penalty or loss of any school benefits to which he or she is otherwise entitled.

The surveys are being administered by your school district during one class period and will take about 45 minutes to complete. **All responses will be completely anonymous and confidential.** Results will be reported for groups of students; because the survey is anonymous, responses cannot be linked to any individual student. Additionally, the anonymous survey data may be shared with respected researchers in the United States to aid in prevention planning.

If you have any questions or would like to review copies of the surveys, please ask a school official at your child's school. A copy of each survey is available for your review in the school office. For additional information about the survey, contact SHARP Project Director Mary Johnstun (Phone: 801-842-2682) or SHARP Contact Brenda Ahlemann (Phone: 801-538-9868) at the Utah Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. If you have any concerns or questions about your student's rights as a participant in this survey, you may contact Navina Forsythe, State Department of Human Services Institutional Review Board Chairperson, at 801-538-4045.

For the survey results to be accurate, it is important that all students are given an opportunity to participate in the survey, whether or not they have ever used tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs or engaged in problem behavior. Please check whether or not you want your child to participate in the survey, sign this form, and **return it with the school registration materials.** Thank you very much for your help on this important project.

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO SCHOOL ONCE YOU HAVE SIGNED IT.**

Student's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box(s) and sign below:

I give permission for my child to complete any ONE of these two surveys: 1) Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Survey, or 2) Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

I DO NOT give permission for my child to complete the following survey(s) (Check all that apply):

Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Survey

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

Parent / Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_