

SURVEYS OF STUDENTS

Surveys can be a valuable resource for schools and communities in determining student needs for educational services. When a survey is used, every effort should be made to ask questions in a neutral manner to ensure the accuracy of the survey.

Administrators may use surveys to determine potential enrollment in certain classes. Surveys may be used at the direction of the Board to determine the need for various services to students, or to determine the prevailing attitudes prior to consideration or adoption of school district policies.

Teachers may use surveys in classes to determine student knowledge and/or attitudes prior to teaching about a particular subject, provided that administrative approval has been given and provided that responses will not be used in any identifying manner.

Parents or guardians shall be notified of this policy when enrolling students for the first time in district schools and at least annually, at the beginning of the school year. This notification must explain that parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to opt the student out of participation in writing, in the surveys.

Board approval must be given prior to administering a survey that includes reference to any of the sensitive subject areas listed below, and parents shall be given the right to inspect such a survey:

1. Political affiliations of beliefs of the student or the student's parent.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Sex behavior or attitudes.
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Surveys conducted for other agencies, organizations or individuals must have the approval of the School Board as to content and purpose and the results of the survey must be shared with the Board. Board approval will not be granted unless the right of a parent of a student to inspect the survey before the survey is administered is guaranteed by the agency, organization, or individual seeking approval of the survey.

The Principal will develop procedures for granting a request by a parent/guardian for reasonable access within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

The parent(s)/guardian(s) have the right to opt the student out of participation in surveys or activities such as:

1. The administration of any survey that delves into the restricted sensitive subject areas identified and listed above.

2. The collection, disclosure, and use of personal information gathered from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services, for, or to students, such as:

- College or other postsecondary education recruitment or military recruitment.
- Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products.
- Curriculum and instructional materials used in schools.
- Tests and assessments.
- Student's recognition programs.
- The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related activities.

3. The administration of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school not necessary to protect the immediate health or safety of the student or other students and not otherwise permitted or required by state law. The term "invasive physical examination" means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student shall also have the right to inspect, upon request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum. The term "instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of format. It does not include tests or academic assessments.

Cross Ref: Policy FCAAC Head Lice (Pediculoses)

Policy GBAA Curriculum Research/Pilot Projects

Policy BIBB Patron Complaints about Library or Instructional Material

Legal Ref: Section 439 of the General Education Provisions Act of 1974 as amended by PL 103-227 Section 1017

20 U.S.C. 1232h(a) Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

Protection of Pupil Rights Act as amended by PL 107-110

POLICY ADOPTED: 26 Feb 96

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