

IMPORTANT RIGHTS FOR PARENTS CONCERNING STUDENT SURVEYS

The Federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C § 1232h, requires the Anchorage School District to notify you and obtain consent to allow your child to participate in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

The Alaska State Statute and Anchorage School District Board policy also have requirements regarding surveys that require parental consent.

By Alaska State Statute, AS 14.03.110:

Parental permission is required for surveys that inquire into personal or private family affairs of the student not a matter of public record or subject to public observation.

- Parents/guardians may provide "blanket" permission, once per year, for their student to participate in anonymous surveys requiring parental consent.
- For any survey that is not anonymous and requires parental consent, the District will obtain the written permission from the student's parent or guardian at least two weeks before the survey is administered.
- In addition, for all surveys requiring permission, parents will be provided notice and an opportunity to review the survey at least two weeks in advance of the administration of the survey.

By District Board policy:

1. Each year, the District may seek the annual permission of each parent/guardian for their child to participate in anonymous surveys.
2. For those surveys that are not anonymous and require parental permission, the District shall provide a permission form to be returned by the parents/guardians and the permission form must be returned at least two weeks before the administration of the survey.

2008-2009 Surveys

For surveys that require notice to parents/guardians, the notice will be provided through your school newsletter. At this time, three surveys are planned that require parental permission: the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the Aggressors Victims and Bystanders Survey, and the National Indian Education Study Survey. All of these surveys are anonymous.

1. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
Dates: January – March, 2009
Grades: Nine through Twelve

2. Aggressors Victims and Bystanders Survey (AVB)

Dates: September – December, 2008

Grades: Seven

3. National Indian Education Study (NIES) Survey

Dates: January – March, 2009

Grades: Four and Eight/Alaska Native/American Indian Students Only

By signing the following Annual Survey Permission Form, your student may participate in these surveys. For surveys scheduled after the school year starts, the Anchorage School District will provide parents/guardians at least two weeks notice prior to the administration of the surveys. Notification will come to you through your school newsletter and will advise you of your opportunity to review the surveys.

The following surveys do not require parental permission. The District will provide notice through your school's newsletter at least two weeks prior to the administration of the surveys.

1. Climate and Connectedness Student Survey

Dates: January, 2009

Grades: Three through Twelve

2. EEOC – Athletic Interest Survey

Dates: October 6 – 30, 2008

Grades: Eight through Twelve

ANNUAL SURVEY PERMISSION FORM
2008-2009 School Year

I understand that the Anchorage School District may administer, or permit to be administered, anonymous surveys that require parental permission. I understand that as the parent or legal guardian of this student, I may review any of the survey instruments and determine the appropriateness of the survey in relation to my student. I can remove my student from the survey administration.

Printed name of student: _____

School: _____

Student ID: _____

Grade for 2008-2009 school year: _____

Printed name of parent/legal guardian: _____

Signature of parent/legal guardian: _____

☐ I give my approval to administer anonymous surveys to my child this year. I understand that anonymous surveys may inquire into private matters, as explained in the Important Rights for Parents Concerning Student Surveys. I understand that I may review the survey to be given no less than two weeks prior to administration, and I may remove my child at that time if I wish. I further understand that I may revoke this annual permission at any time.

☐ I do not give my approval to administer any anonymous survey that inquires into personal or private family affairs of the student to my child during the 2008-2009 school year.