

Concord School District Policy #592

Non-Educational Questionnaires, Surveys and Research

This policy will apply to all non-academic and non-educational surveys and questionnaires implemented, used and conducted by the School District.

For purposes of this policy, “nonacademic survey or questionnaire” means “surveys, questionnaires, or other documents designed to elicit information about a student’s social behavior, family life, religion, politics, sexual orientation, sexual activity, drug use or any other information not related to a student’s academics” or as otherwise may be defined by applicable state or federal law.

Separate federal and state laws require that written consent be obtained from a parent/guardian before a student participates in a non-educational survey or questionnaire that asks about information not directly related to a student’s academics.

Prior written consent from a parent/guardian is required to administer a non-academic survey to a student, unless the student is an adult or an emancipated minor who consents. Parents/guardians will be notified at least ten (10) days prior to administration when a school intends to administer a non-academic survey. Included in the notice will be information regarding the purpose of the non-academic survey, how the survey will be administered; how it will be utilized; and the persons or entities who will have access to the results of the completed survey. Parents/guardians wishing to inspect a non-academic survey will be able to do so in the administrative office. Parents/guardians may refuse to give consent for their student to participate, with or without first reviewing the non-academic survey. The school will not penalize students whose parents/guardians decline to provide written consent. The school will take reasonable precautions to protect student privacy during their participation in any non-academic survey.

State law does not require prior written consent from a parent or guardian for administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As required by both state and federal law, the District shall provide parents/guardians with notice at least ten (10) days before the YRBS is administered. Parents may inspect the YRBS at the school’s administrative office. Parents or guardians may opt their student out of participating in the YRBS by providing the Principal with written notice. District staff administering the YRBS shall ensure students understand that participation is voluntary and that students who opt-out will not be penalized.

Legal References:

[RSA 186:11, IXd, Non-Academic Surveys and Questionnaires](#)
[20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment](#)
[2017 CDC YRBS Guidance Manual](#)

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