

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school will soon be administering the *Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey**. This survey is taken by 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade students statewide. I believe this survey is a valuable tool to help us understand how students behave, think and feel about alcohol, marijuana and other drug use, bullying and school safety. The KCTC survey measures teen substance use, delinquency, and related problem behaviors in schools and communities. The survey gives us insight into the problems students face and shows what we can do to help them succeed. The information is important for planning effective prevention programs in our school and community and provides data to assist in applying for grant funding.

The survey can be viewed at www.kctcdata.org/families, click **View the survey**. You may also be interested to know the following:

1. **It is completely anonymous.** Students will not be asked for their names on the questionnaire, nor will anyone be able to connect any individual student with his/her responses. School staff will not see any one student's responses, but only summaries of results.
2. **Participation is entirely voluntary.** Your child may decline to participate in the survey or may simply skip any question they do not wish to answer.
3. **Annual participation is important.** Even if your child has participated in previous surveys, annual data is extremely helpful in determining the effectiveness of previous efforts and changes in program areas.

I hope you will allow your child to participate. Please [click here to view your copy of the Guardian Informed Consent](#) or visit <https://kctcdata.org/file/guardian-survey-informed-consent-english-pdf>. Please check the appropriate box below. **All parents must sign and return this form to school by September 2nd**. To learn more about which survey questions our school district will administer to students, please contact your school administrator, **Nathan Strasburg – 785-543-5114**. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Nathan Strasburg

PRINCIPAL

Please check one:

- Yes, I give permission** for my child to participate in the *Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey*.
- No, I do not** give permission for my child to participate in the *Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey*.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Printed Name of Child

Date

*The survey is provided by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Behavioral Health Services Commission and administered by Greenbush – The Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, Research and Evaluation Department.



Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) Fast Facts:

- The survey has been administered annually in Kansas since 1994-95.
- Sponsored by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Behavioral Health Services Commission, it is available at no charge to all districts.
- Survey participation requires registration by the school Superintendent and written consent of parents. The easiest way for schools to obtain written consent is by including the consent form in enrollment packets.
- Survey responses are confidential and anonymous. Individual students cannot be identified or tracked. Data are reported by grade.
- By administering the survey every year, administrators can track trends occurring over a period of time. The survey includes both risk factors and protective factors.
- Data from the survey provides important indicator measures to support community planning.
- Without consistent, high levels of participation by districts, county level data are also impacted. There are many community organizations (e.g., Kansas Prevention Coalitions, United Way, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, Kansas Children’s Service League, Communities In Schools, Juvenile Justice Authority) counting on annual survey data to apply for or evaluate grant funding, monies that directly and indirectly benefit students.
- KCTC student survey provides schools with data for developing a school profile and strategic plan. Many KCTC districts use their reports as needs assessments to gauge what is working and what needs work in their schools. Districts can then look into programming to address weaknesses and enhance strengths, and evaluate the effectiveness of current programming.
- Districts can use the data when seeking funding for programming. It can also be used to show positive trends or attributes within a building, grade, or district.
- With the movement towards accountability at all levels, having high quality youth data is critical for school districts, community, county and regional organizations as well as state agencies. *KCTC data is used across multiple state agencies including Behavioral Health Services Commission, Kansas State Department of Education, and Juvenile Justice Authority.* Frequent and consistent participation is critical to establishing reliable trend data over time.



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