



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future

November 3, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian,

To make sure we give the best possible education and services to children in Westwood, we want to learn about their attitudes and behaviors with regard to a variety of health issues. In order to accomplish this, students attending Thurston Middle School and Westwood High School are being asked to participate in a Youth Health Survey. The questions on the survey have been used widely in more than 25 other communities in the MetroWest Boston region of Massachusetts and cover many topics including: alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; mental health; online behaviors; sleep; and protective factors. The data will help our school and community enhance health education and prevention programs aimed at preventing youth substance use and supporting youth mental health.

This project will help our district develop and enhance its health education and prevention programs. We will be giving this online survey to students in grades 6-12 on Thursday, November 10th. Though the surveys cover the same topics, please note that the middle school survey is shorter and some questions are modified to be developmentally appropriate.

The survey is **anonymous**, meaning your child will not be asked to provide their name, and no one will know how they respond. There will be no identifying information collected on the survey, and there will be no way to link your child's responses to their identity.

Completing this survey is **voluntary**. Your child's grades in school will not be affected by whether or not they participate. Your child can also decide not to take the survey or skip any question they don't wish to answer.

The *Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment* is a Federal Law that requires us to notify you ahead of time about the survey, and give you the chance to look at it, so you can let us know if you don't want your child to take part. If you want to see the survey before deciding, a copy will be available from 10:00-1:00 on Monday, Nov. 7 and Tuesday, Nov. 8 at the district Wellness Directors office, located in the WHS library. Alternatively, please feel free to contact Tim Chant, Director of Wellness directly (tchant@westwood.k12.ma.us) with questions or to schedule a different time to review the survey.

If you DO NOT want your child to take part in the survey, please complete this [OPT OUT FORM](#) by Tuesday, November 8th.

Sincerely,

Amy Davenport, Principal, Westwood High School

Michael Redmon, Principal, Thurston Middle School

Timothy Chant, Director of Wellness, Westwood Public Schools