

To: The RSD17 Board of Education

Date: 11/3/23

Submitted for Board meeting dated: 11/14/23

Re: HKYFS Survey-Youth Voices Count

Purpose of the memo: Board Action Requested: HKYFS requests approval from the RSD17 Board of Education to administer the Youth Voices survey for *HKHS grades 9-12 in December*

Executive Summary: *HKYFS has partnered with RSD17 since 2006 to administer a survey to HK youth for the purpose of hearing directly from students around their experiences, beliefs, perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors. The information collected in the survey helps the town, school, and other organizations better understand and support youth and families. We can identify strengths, challenges, trends, and needs. This information informs programs and outreach and helps to plan for the programs and services that are most needed by the youth and their families in our community.*

This past February, the Board approved the "Search Survey", but scheduling did not allow for it to be administered at the High School. In the meantime, HKYFS listened to concerns about some of the questions in the Search Survey and sought to find an instrument where questions could be removed and other relevant data could be acquired. HKYFS has worked with the HKHS administration to customize the Youth Voices Count survey.

There are general demographic questions such as grade level, gender and race/ethnicity. However, identifiable information such as ID, birthdate or other personal information is not included in the survey. The survey includes questions about perceptions and experiences around substance use, mental health, online gaming, social media, bullying, and accessing resources and support in the community. Questions about sexual activity have been removed. Skip logic is used in the survey, i.e., if someone answers no to alcohol use, they will not be asked follow-up questions on that topic. Finally, there is no evidence that asking youth about certain behaviors will encourage them to engage in those behaviors.

Like all previous surveys, the survey is voluntary, anonymous, and confidential - no information can be traced back to participants. No IP addresses are collected. An outside company will collect and report on the data. Parents are notified in advance about the survey and its contents, are given the ability to view the survey, and can choose to opt-out their child. Students themselves can opt out of any questions or choose not to complete the survey at any time, before or during implementation. No question is required – students can choose to skip any question they wish. The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete.

Youth Service Bureaus like HKYFS throughout the state work hand-in-hand with their school districts to partner on youth surveys, and we remain grateful for access to our youth through the schools and understand the responsibility to act responsibly in doing so.

Board Action: MOTION to authorize the Youth Voices Count Survey to be administered at HKHS.

Next Steps: *HKYFS will present the Superintendent & the Board of Education with a summary of results in late winter/ early Spring. Full (summary) results are shared with the community via public presentations, info briefs, social media, web, etc.*

CC:

Board Administrator

Superintendent of Schools

Attached:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Moqylq-N3yMrse48Je9-kkAUQYkiJFAH/view?usp=sharing>