

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Our school, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Department of Education, is conducting the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions. We will survey students in grades 6, 7, and 8, classroom instructors and staff, beginning in winter 2023. The purpose of this survey is to measure student support, student engagement, school discipline, and safety conditions in each school. This information will be used to guide educational practices that produce a safe and supportive school environment.

I am writing to provide you with information on the student survey. The survey will be completed online between January 30-February 10. The survey does not ask for your child's name and all answers are anonymous. No one, including teachers or administrators, will know how your child answered the survey. You will not have access to your child's survey answers even as their parent or guardian. You may review the questions asked in the student survey at this website: <https://tinyurl.com/VaSchoolSurvey>.

The survey will ask questions such as how students feel about their school, how students get along with one another and their teachers, how students feel about school rules, and their perceptions of their teachers' willingness to help them. Students will also be asked what kinds of bullying they may have observed during school and whether they have been bullied themselves.

All students in your child's grade level are eligible to participate in the survey. Students participating in remote instruction and in-person instruction are both eligible to participate. The survey is voluntary and your child can decide not to participate. No action will be taken against you, your child, or the school if your child does not participate. If you do **not** wish for your child to participate, please notify the school office by telephone or letter by **January 27**.

Your child will not receive any immediate benefit from participating in the survey, but the survey will help us to maintain a safe, inviting, and supportive learning environment for your child.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important study of Virginia's schools.