

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our school is taking part in the 2021 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The University of Nevada, Reno in cooperation with the Douglas County School District, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and the Nevada Department of Education, is conducting this survey. The YRBS has been conducted every other year since 1993. The survey will ask middle school and high school students about nutrition, physical activity, injuries, and tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use. High school students will also be asked about sexual behaviors that cause sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. Students will be asked to fill out a survey between September 13-24, 2021 during one class period. The survey is CONFIDENTIAL, ANONYMOUS, and OPTIONAL for students.

The purpose of the YRBS is to better understand the health and well-being of youth throughout Nevada and the findings are used to help set the national and state agenda for prevention and intervention programming. Schools and service providers also use YRBS data to develop programs and policies designed to improve health outcomes of teenagers. Many organizations rely on the data to secure funding for valuable resources that help ensure the safety and well-being of all students.

The survey has been designed to protect the privacy of students who participate. **Therefore, students will not put their names or identifying information on the survey. Survey results will be combined to ensure that no single student, classroom or school can be identified.** The survey data will be stored on a protected computer server at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Only UNR and CDC YRBS team members will have access to the data. Completing this paper and pencil survey will cause little or no harm to students who participate. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be sensitive.

We would like all selected students to participate in this survey; however, the survey is optional. No action will be taken against parents or students for declining participation in the survey. Students can decline participation at any time or can skip any questions they do not wish to answer. Parents, guardians, and students can review a copy of the survey and resulting reports at: <https://www.unr.edu/public-health/research-activities/nevada-youth-risk-behavior-survey> If you have any questions about the survey, you can contact Meghan Anderson, YRBS coordinator at 775-682-6999.

Please return this form **only if you DO NOT** want your child to take part in the YRBS. If you check the box “no” below, sign this form and return it to your child’s teacher within 3 days. Thank you.

Student’s Name: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____

NO, my child may not take part in this survey.

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: _____ Date: _____