Survey of Students

Surveys can be valuable resources for the school and the community in determining student needs for educational services.

Administrators, teachers, other school staff, and the Bethany Board of Education (Board) may administer surveys to inform the educational process. Administrative approval is required for surveys. When a survey is conducted, every effort will be made to ask questions in a neutral manner. Student responses and data collected from surveys will not be released in any manner that would personally identify students; however, the collected data may be shared with appropriate educational entities as permitted by state and federal law.

Surveys used in any experimental program or research project will be subject to the requirements of Board policy. Parents/guardians shall have the right to inspect all instructional materials that will be used for a survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of a federal program.

Prior to administering a survey, the Superintendent must approve all surveys that include reference to any of the factors listed below. In addition, no student may, without parental/guardian consent, take part in a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parents/guardians,
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family,
3. sex behavior or attitudes,
4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior,
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships,
6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers,
7. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program), or
8. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.

Surveys conducted for other agencies, organizations, or individuals must have the recommendation of the Superintendent as to content and purpose. The results of such approved surveys must be shared with the Board.

Parents/guardians shall have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to a student. Such requests shall be made in writing with a response to be at least two (2) weeks in advance of any survey to be given.

For surveys not funded in any part by the federal government, parents/guardians need not give written consent, but must instead be given prior notice of the survey with the opportunity to opt their child out of participation if the survey elicits information concerning any of the eight (8) protected areas listed above.

Overall survey results following decisions must be shared with all parties who request such information.

Parents/guardians shall be notified at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, of this policy, and when enrolling students for the first time in the school. This notification must explain that parents/guardians have the right to opt the student out of participation, in writing, in the following activities;

1. The collection, disclosure, and use of personal information gathered from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to students, such as:
    a. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products,
    b. Curriculum and instructional materials used in schools,
    c. Tests and assessments,
    d. Student recognition programs, and
    e. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related activities.
2. The administration of any survey that delves into the restricted sensitive subject areas identified and listed above, or
3. The administration of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school not necessary to protect the immediate health or safety of the student or other students and not otherwise permitted or required by state law.

The term "personal information" means individually identifiable information including a student's or parent's/guardian's name, address, telephone number, or social security number.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 1232g
20 U.S.C. § 1232h, as amended
Public Law 114-95
34 C.F.R. Part 98

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