

Dear Parent:

The University of Massachusetts Center for Survey Research (CSR), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) are collaborating on a very important project to study health issues among Massachusetts' school students. Students will be asked to complete a questionnaire addressing many health topics. The questionnaire consists of a standard set of questions being asked of children throughout the state. Questions address many health issues including the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, in school and out of school activities, TV viewing, exposure to bullying and violence, diet and exercise, and coping with stress. A copy of the questionnaire is available at your child's school for review. The questionnaire is completely anonymous and confidential. There will be no way to link the answers to any questionnaire back to the student who gave those answers. It will be given during one class period at school.

The purpose of this letter is to give you the opportunity to keep your child out of the study if you do not want him or her to participate for any reason. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that it is OK for your child to participate. The student is under no obligation to participate in the study and he or she may decide not to participate at any time.

If you do NOT want your child to participate, fill in your child's name here:

sign your name here:

and return this form to the school principal by _____.

You do not need to return this form if it is OK for your child to participate.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the project director at the University of Massachusetts, Dragana Bolcic-Jankovic at 617-287-7200 or at dragana.bjankovic@umb.edu.

Thank you for your help with this important project.