

INFORMED CONSENT

School Safety Survey – Parent Form

We are doing a research study about school climate and bullying prevention at your child's school. We would like to know your child's perceptions of youth attitudes, experiences and behaviors at your school. We are also interested in your child's perspectives on school policies and programs regarding discipline and bullying specifically.

We would like your child to complete a survey composed of questions addressing these topics. We will ask them about their feelings and beliefs involving school safety and the degree to which they may have had any negative peer experiences or problems with bullying.

Your child will be asked to respond anonymously to the school climate survey. Your child will NOT be asked to put his/her name or any other personally identifying information on the form. All students at your child's school in grade 4 and above are invited to participate. Your child can choose whether or not to participate. Students can also change their mind at any time. The surveys will be administered school wide in the classrooms during a class period designated by the Principal. Students will complete the surveys in one of two ways: 1) at their desks under conditions normally used when they complete exams for coursework and other group testing purposes; or 2) on the computer in the school computer lab/classroom. Teachers will be in the classrooms to help pass out forms or prepare the computers and ensure students refrain from talking or discussing their survey materials. Students for whom parental consent was withdrawn will be given a non-graded classroom activity in the form of a packet to complete quietly while seated at their desks. These students will be identified by office staff in advance, and the activity can be distributed to them unobtrusively at the same time the survey materials are handed out. Students who chose not to participate will also be allowed to complete the non-graded classroom activity.

Completing the survey will take approximately 30 minutes. Your child's responses will assist us in assessing potential school safety needs in your district. It will also inform decisions regarding what types of programs might be helpful. Your child's individual answers will not be shared with the school. We will collect all student surveys and provide a summary report. All of the data we collect will be kept on the campus of Southern Illinois University and locked in office 209F in building Life Sciences II. The de-identified data will be archived for research purposes.

This project involves minimal risk. All student surveys will be completed anonymously and will not impact student education or relations with staff, teachers or peers. Should your child become distressed after completing the survey, in addition to school mental health professionals, Psychology graduate students who are trained in clinical and counseling skills will be available during and for several hours beyond the survey administration. Any student who becomes upset during or after completion of the survey may inform their teacher they would like to speak with someone. This can occur immediately, at the end of the class period (e.g., as they are walking out to change classes), or at the beginning of the next class. All teachers at the school will be aware that survey administration was conducted and that students may be excused to see one of the mental health providers as needed. Students can also independently seek out one of these individuals during the lunch/recess period without approaching a teacher.

This research study is part of a comprehensive school safety initiative, funded by the National Institute of Justice and led by the researchers in the Department of Psychology, and Criminal Justice & Criminology, at Southern Illinois University and the Regional Office of Education #30. Drs. Mary Louise Cashel or Daryl

Kroner or their research assistants will answer any questions you have about the study. You may contact Dr. Mary Louise Cashel by phone at 618-453-3553, via email to mcashel@siu.edu or by writing her at: Mail Code 6502, Department of Psychology, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois, You may contact Dr. Daryl Kroner by phone at 618-453-3568, via email to dkroner@siu.edu, or by writing him at: Mail Code 4504, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois, 62901. You may also contact Cheryl Graff, Superintendent, or Karen Wolfe, Assistant Superintendent, in the Regional Office of Education at 618-687-7290.

The school will be asking students to complete the survey on Feb. 9th, 2018.

***If you do NOT agree** to have your child fill out the survey please indicate your child's name:

Name of student

Parent signature

or contact the school at 618-426-1111, by Feb 8th, 2018. Your child will not be given the form. *

Phone number

Date

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Human Subjects Committee, Office of Sponsored Projects Administration, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901-4709. Phone (618) 453-4533. E-mail: siuhsc@siu.edu.