



Please read this letter about the youth survey being conducted in our school.

This letter contains information about you and your child's rights and why this survey is important.

Please visit www.ohyes.ohio.gov for additional information.

Dear Jones, Hastings and Upper Arlington High School families,

Upper Arlington Schools are committed to the safety and well-being of our students, and we are working hard to better understand youth behaviors that both protect their health and put their health at risk. As part of this effort, we are asking students in grades 7 through 12 to participate in an anonymous survey called the Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey (OHYES).

What is the purpose of the survey? Our school district is working very hard to better understand youth health risk and protective behaviors in the community. As part of this effort, we are asking students in grades 7-12 to participate in an anonymous survey called the Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey -- OHYES! Only children age 12 or above are eligible to participate. The OHYES! is a tool designed by the Ohio Departments of Education, Health, and Mental Health and Addiction Services and numerous other programs advocating for youth. Our school has decided to use this survey to understand more about our students.

What is my child being asked to do? We would like your child to answer questions about:

- personal use of alcohol , tobacco, and other drugs, perception of risks, where accessed
- feelings about their school and community
- family and personal relationships, and demographics
- mental health, suicide and access to care
- health-related behaviors (i.e. sleep, nutrition, and exercise)
- The survey can be viewed at the school's office, or online (<http://ohyes.ohio.gov/Downloads>) – 110 item version

How long will the survey take? The survey includes 110 items; it has been tested with other youth and should take about 15-20 minutes.

Who is doing the survey? The survey is being done by Upper Arlington Schools. The survey was developed by the Ohio Departments of Education, Health, and Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Does my child have to participate? No, that is a choice for you and your child. But we really want to hear what your child has to say.

How do you protect my child's privacy? The OHYES! will be confidentially administered by trained school staff. Schools have been instructed on how to protect student anonymity and confidentiality. Please review these instructions at <http://ohyes.ohio.gov/Schools/Preparation/Confidentiality>.

Will participating help or hurt my child? Many people like sharing their experiences and opinions. Sometimes sharing personal things can be stressful or emotional. The survey instructions state that students may skip any questions they are uncomfortable with or stop the survey at any time; there is a back, next, and quit button on each question screen. There is no penalty for not taking the survey or for stopping.

Who will know what my child shares? Your child's privacy will be strictly protected. Students are NOT asked for their name, identification number or date of birth. No one can identify your child's responses. Data is sent directly to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS); no data is stored on school devices. The school does not have access to any individual survey data. OhioMHAS will not be able to link answers to individual students or report anything they say to parents, teachers or administrators. The survey is anonymous, and no student will be identified in the results. Student responses will be combined and reported together. There are also minimum reporting requirements (15 or more respondents).

How does my family and community benefit? OHYES! results will help guide communities in creating and improving youth health programs in Ohio. The results will be shared with everyone, including families, faculty and students, and the public. State-level and county-level results will be available to the public at <http://ohyes.ohio.gov/Results>. District and school results will only be available to Superintendents and Principals with secured access.

Do I have to sign a form for my child to participate? If you wish to have your child participate in the survey, there is no need to do anything. We are asking only families who do NOT want their child participating in the survey to notify us by completing the form on the next page. A separate form must be filled out for each child. Please return the form to your child's school no later than May 7, 2021.

Does answering the survey influence students to try unhealthy behaviors? Absolutely no research supports any connection between completing a health behavior survey and trying an unhealthy behavior. You may be reassured to know that many unhealthy behaviors among young people – including tobacco use, sexual behaviors, and some forms of violence – have declined since 1991. During that same period, youth surveys have increased nationwide.

Who can I contact if I have questions? Visit the website at www.ohyes.ohio.gov or email info@ohyes.ohio.gov. You can also call the OHYES! Team at 1-866-563-6904.

Sincerely,

Tammy Yockey, Ed.D, Director of Data and Accountability



OHYES Survey Parent Opt-Out Form

Spring 2021

Please complete this form if you do **NOT** want your child to participate in the upcoming OHYES survey.

A separate form must be returned for each child not participating. Return the form to your child's school office or submit it by email to one of the following addresses **no later than May 7, 2021**.

- Hastings Middle School: mrobertson@uaschools.org
- Jones Middle School: jfine@uaschools.org
- Upper Arlington High School: mjordan@uachools.org

NO, my child may NOT participate in the OHYES! survey

Student's Name: _____

Student's School: _____

Grade: _____

Print Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____