

Southmoreland School District



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“High Quality Learning for All”

Pennsylvania Youth Survey
Parental/Caregiver Permission Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our district is taking part in the 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The survey will ask questions about the behaviors of students in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades, including questions about school climate, violence, depression, bullying, and substance abuse.

The information we receive will assist us and our community partners in working to prevent adolescent drug use and other problem behaviors. We want to ensure that all parents and caregivers are notified that the survey is being conducted and provide you with as much information about the survey as possible. As a parent or caregiver, you have the right to prohibit your child’s participation. The following facts about the survey will help you make an informed decision about your child’s participation:

- Participation in this survey is completely voluntary. Students will be instructed by their proctor that they can skip any questions they do not understand or choose not to answer. If they have any questions or concerns after taking this survey, they are instructed to talk with their school counselor or a trusted adult.
- The survey is designed to protect each student’s privacy. It is anonymous and confidential. Students will not put their names on the survey, and no student will ever have their individual responses reported.
- The survey is well tested, having been administered to over 1,000,000 Pennsylvania students since the 1990’s. The information collected has proved invaluable to prevention planners in selecting programming to promote healthy youth development.

You can request a list of the survey questions by visiting this link:

<https://www.episcenter.psu.edu/index.php/paysquestion>. For more information about the survey, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions, please visit www.pays.pa.gov then click on “2021.”

The survey will be administered during the school day later this December and will take one class period to complete. If you do not want your child to participate, please submit your request to the building principal in writing before December 20, 2021.

Thank you for your help in our efforts to keep our schools drug free and safe for learning. If you have any questions, please contact Vincent Mascia at 724-887-2004 or masciav@southmoreland.net.

Respectfully,

Vincent Mascia

Vincent Mascia,
Superintendent of Schools