

Texas Youth Tobacco Survey

Parental Notification Requirements

Schools/Districts taking part in *The Texas Youth Tobacco Survey* are **required** to notify parents of the survey and its general contents **at least 2 weeks** prior to survey administration. This notification **MUST** include the “**Information Sheet**” that has been provided. Ideally, these forms should be mailed to parents to ensure proper dissemination, but it is up to each school/district to decide how such matters are to be handled.

The Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects at Texas A&M University has waived the requirement to document parental assent/consent, but does require that the “Information Sheet” be distributed to parents, and that the students are read the information in the classroom informing them that participation is completely voluntary. There may be circumstances that require your school/district to use informed consent and, if so, it is up to the school/district to obtain and document such consent.

Either the parents of students, or the students themselves, have every right to NOT participate in the Texas Youth Tobacco Survey. Each participating school/district is responsible for having a mechanism in place to accommodate those students who will not be participating in the survey. Either the Campus Coordinator or the teacher will need to keep track of students for whom either the parents or the students themselves choose not to participate in the survey. TAMU has provided an opt out form at the bottom of the Information Sheet to help track those parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate. The school/district is responsible for filling out the appropriate fields indicating when and to whom (i.e. campus principal, teacher) the forms should be returned.

Once the parent notification letter has been sent out, please sign and date below to confirm completion of the parental notification requirement. This one-page form should be returned by email to TAMU as soon as parental notification letters are sent out. TAMU will not mail out survey materials until this form is received.

(If you have any questions, or are unclear as to these requirements, please call us at 979-862-3437 or send an email to txschoolsurvey@tamu.edu.)

Confirmation of Completion of Parental Notification Requirement

(Name of School/District)

has completed the parent notification requirement by distributing the Parent Information Sheet to the parents of all participating students. The school district and participating schools will ensure that all students who do not want to participate, or whose parents do not want them to participate, will not be required to complete the survey.

(Name of School/District Representative)

(Date)



Information Sheet for the *Texas Youth Tobacco Survey*

On _____, students at _____ will take *The Texas Youth Tobacco Survey*. This year, as many as 15,000 students will take part in *The Texas Youth Tobacco Survey*. The survey takes about thirty-five minutes and should not interfere with overall teaching objectives.

Survey questions have been carefully designed to draw out student responses as to actual use of tobacco products, current smoking patterns, lifetime smoking history, age of initiation, quitting history, health risks, perceived social norms related to smoking, attitudes and beliefs, and social influences related to tobacco use.

Participation in The Texas Youth Tobacco Survey is completely voluntary. There will be no adverse consequences---grades or class standing will not be affected in any way whatsoever--- for any student choosing not to participate. Those choosing not to participate are asked to read or work quietly during the administration of the survey. Research design and protocols ensure that **participation in The Texas Youth Tobacco Survey is completely anonymous.** This means no names or other personal identifiers will be collected.

The Texas Youth Tobacco Survey has two primary objectives. It serves to inform state and local policy-makers about the extent and nature of the tobacco use problem in Texas schools and provides a statewide standard of comparison for districts conducting local assessments of tobacco use. Administration of *The Texas Youth Tobacco Survey* is conducted by The Bush School at Texas A&M University on behalf of the Texas Department of State Health Services.

This research study has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board --- Human Subjects in Research, Texas A&M University. For research-related problems or questions regarding subjects' rights, the Institutional Review Board may be contacted at (979) 458-4067.

If you would like to view a copy of the survey instrument, or if you have any questions concerning the survey methodology, you may contact Shannon Peairson at The Bush School at Texas A&M University at (979) 862-3437 or via email at txschoolssurvey@tamu.edu.

****If you do not want your child to participate, please fill out the form below****

This form must be returned to _____

by: _____.

My child MAY NOT participate in the Texas Youth Tobacco Survey

(Child's Name)

(Name of Parent/Guardian)

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

En _____, estudiantes a _____ harán *La Encuesta Sobre el Tabaco para Jóvenes de Texas*. Este año, tantos como 15,000 estudiantes tomarán parte en *La Encuesta Sobre el Tabaco para Jóvenes de Texas*. La encuesta toma cerca de treinta y cinco minutos y no debe interferir con objetivos globales de enseñanza.

Las preguntas de este cuestionario han sido diseñadas cuidadosamente para investigar, en las respuestas de los estudiantes, acerca del uso actual de los productos de tabaco, los hábitos de fumar, información del fumar activamente o de por vida, edad de iniciación, información del dejar fumar, riesgos a la salud, el entendimiento de las normas sociales relacionadas con el fumar, conductas y creencias, y las influencias sociales relacionadas con el uso del tabaco.

La participación en La Encuesta Sobre el Tabaco para Jóvenes de Texas es completamente voluntaria.

No habrá consecuencias adversas --- las calificaciones o el nivel en el salón de clases no serán afectados de ninguna manera--- para cualquier alumno que no decida participar. A los que elijan no participar, se les pedirá que lean o trabajen silenciosamente durante la administración de la encuesta. La investigación de diseño y los protocolos aseguran que **la participación en La Encuesta Sobre el Tabaco para Jóvenes de Texas es completamente anónima**. Esto significa que ningún nombre o identificación personal será recaudada.

La Encuesta Sobre el Tabaco para Jóvenes de Texas tiene dos objetivos primarios. El primero, sirve para informar a los creadores de políticas estatales y locales acerca de la naturaleza y hasta que punto llega el problema del uso de tabaco en las escuelas de Texas. El segundo, la encuesta a nivel nacional que se lleva a cabo cada dos años en una muestra al azar de distritos escolares de Texas; provee una comparación estándar para los distritos que llevan a cabo evaluaciones locales de uso de tabaco. La administración de *La Encuesta Sobre el Tabaco para Jóvenes de Texas* es llevada a cabo por Universidad Texas A&M en representación del Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud de Texas.

Este estudio de investigación ha sido revisado y aprobado por la Junta de Revisión Institucional ---Sujetos Humanos en Investigación, Universidad Texas A&M. Para problemas relacionados con investigación o preguntas tocantes a los derechos del sujeto, la Junta de Revisión Institucional puede ser contactada al (979) 458-4067.

Si le gustaría revisar una copia del instrumento usado para la encuesta, o si usted tiene alguna pregunta concerniente a la metodología de la encuesta, usted puede contactar a Shannon Peairson en el Instituto de Investigación de Universidad Texas A&M al (979) 862-3437 o mandar un correo electrónico a: txschoolsurvey@tamu.edu.

****Si usted no desea que su hijo participe, por favor llene el siguiente formulario****

Este formulario debe ser devuelto al _____

antes de: _____.

Mi Hijo(a) NO PUEDE Participar en la *La Encuesta Sobre el Tabaco para Jóvenes de Texas*

(Nombre del Niño(a))

(Nombre del Padre/Guardián)

(Firma del Padre/Guardián)

(Fecha)

