

BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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March 8, 2017

Dear Parent:

Our school is taking part in the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey on Monday, March 20, 2017 and Tuesday, March 21, 2017. We will administer the survey to freshman and sophomore students during an extended advisory period and to junior and senior students during English classes. This survey is sponsored by the Vermont Department of Health and Agency of Education. The survey gathers information about health risk behaviors of 6th through 12th grade students. The survey will ask about nutrition, physical activity, injuries, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use, and sexual behaviors. Schools, communities and state agencies will use the results of the survey to evaluate programs, plan new programs and to secure future funding.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in conjunction with state and local school officials, developed the YRBS. It has been administered in schools nationwide since 1991. The YRBS has the support of many national organizations including the National PTA.

The YRBS is anonymous, and survey procedures have been designed to protect your child's privacy. It is important that all students, regardless of whether they have engaged in health-risk behaviors, are given an opportunity to participate in the survey. Students will not put their names on the survey. Individual survey responses will not be disclosed to any school employee nor will any student's name or survey responses be divulged in a report of the results.

We would like all students to take part in the survey; however, the survey is voluntary. No student is required to take the survey. Students may skip any questions they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop taking the survey at any point without penalty.

As a parent, federal law affords you the right to inspect the survey before it is administered and to opt your child out of participating in the survey. If you would like to see the survey, please contact Tara Holaday at BHS. Information about the Vermont YRBS and previous reports are available online at: <http://healthvermont.gov/stats/surveys>.

Should you decide to opt your child out of taking the survey, please inform us in writing by returning the opt out form to us by **Wednesday, March 15, 2017**. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Tara Holaday at 802-540-0509.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Tara Holaday, Prevention Coordinator
Tracy Racicot, Principal

Opt Out Form

I wish to opt my child, _____, out of taking the
(child's name)
2017 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Please return this form to:

Tara Holaday
Burlington High School
52 Institute Road
Burlington, VT 05408

Or email:

tholaday@bsdvt.org

Form or email must be returned or received by Wednesday, March 15, 2017.