



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jack D. Dale, Superintendent
8115 Gatehouse Road
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

September 10, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This school year, all Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth grade students have been selected to participate in the *2009 Fairfax Youth Survey*. FCPS has worked with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2001 to administer this survey, in order to develop appropriate education procedures and intervention programs throughout the county. The survey will be given to sixth graders during the school day and to middle and high school students during English classes. The survey was designed to allow participants to complete it in one class period.

The survey focuses on risk behaviors, such as alcohol, tobacco, and drug use as well as delinquency and violence. It also measures specific protective factors concerning health and safety that help youth refrain from high-risk behaviors. This year additional questions related to personal health, including eating disorders, obesity, and sexual behavior were added to the survey of eighth, tenth, and twelfth grade students. County officials will analyze the information for use at the local level; however, no student is identified by name on the survey. If a student is uncomfortable with any question on the survey, the student does not have to answer that question or may elect to discontinue the survey. Additionally, while it is hoped that as many students as possible will participate, you have the option of declining permission for your child to participate in the survey.

The survey will be administered between November 10-13, 2009. A copy of the actual survey, as well as the survey fact sheet, will be available, starting September 14, 2009, to parents, guardians, or community members online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/youthsurvey and in the school counseling office of your child's school.

If you do not wish for your son or daughter to participate, please complete the enclosed opt-out form and return it to your child's school counseling office by October 23, 2009. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Don Long, at 571-423-4103 or Clarence Jones at 571-423-4270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jack D. Dale'.

Jack D. Dale
Superintendent of Schools

JDD/jb
Enclosures