

# Student Emergency Information

Montgomery County Public Schools Rockville, Maryland 20850 MCPS Form 565-1 August 2014

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If a change of address has occurred, a new proof of residency must be attached to this form before the address can be updated in the computer. Call your school to see what documentation is needed to complete this process.

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# For Students in Grades 6 through 12 ONLY

#### Information to Parents/Guardians of Middle School and High School Students Regarding the Maryland Youth Tobacco and Risk Behavior Survey

This section of the form is to notify you about the Maryland Youth Tobacco and Risk Behavior Survey (MYTRBS) and procedures to follow if you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in the MYTRBS.

Your child's school may be taking part in the MYTRBS, conducted by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The survey was designed by the CDC to identify risk behaviors that may include safety behaviors such as use of helmets and seat belts, depression and mental health; use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs; nutrition and physical activity; and sexual behavior.

The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. The survey is confidential and **students will not put their names on the survey**. No school or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results.

**The survey is voluntary. If your child is not comfortable answering a question, he or she may skip it.** No action will be taken against the school, you, or your child, if your child does not take part. In addition, students may stop participating in the survey at any point without penalty.

If you have any questions about your child's rights as a participant in this survey, or if you feel your child will be harmed in any way by taking part, please call toll-free 1-877-878-3935, leave a message including your name and phone number, and someone will call you back as soon as possible. For more information about the survey, please visit http://fha.dhmh.maryland.gov/ohpetup/SitePages/YTRBS.aspx or www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth.

# If you DO NOT want your child to take part in the survey, (1) please complete the section on the front of the form which indicates "MYTRBS—May Not Participate," (2) return your child's Student Emergency Information form to his/her school.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Q. Why is the Maryland Youth Tobacco and Risk Behavior Survey (MYTRBS) conducted?

A. The Maryland DHMH and the MSDE will use the results from the MYTRBS to (1) monitor how priority health risk behaviors among middle and high school students change over time; (2) evaluate the impact of broad state and local efforts to prevent health risk behaviors; and (3) improve school health education policies and programs.

#### **Q.** Are sensitive questions asked?

A. Some questions may be considered sensitive by some districts, schools, or parents. All such questions are presented in a straightforward and sensitive manner and were designed by the CDC. Topic areas covered include use of helmets and seat belts; depression and mental health; use of tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, nutrition and physical activity; and sexual behavior.

## Q. Will student names be used or linked to the surveys?

A. No. The survey is designed to protect your child's privacy. The survey is administered by specially trained field staff. Students do not put their name on the survey. When students finish the survey, they place the completed survey in a large box or envelope.

#### **Q.** Are students tracked over time to see how their behavior changes?

A. No. Students who participate cannot be tracked because no identifying information is collected.

#### Q. How are children picked to be in the survey?

A. Statewide, approximately 360 schools and 85,000 students are picked to take part. First schools are randomly picked, and then classrooms in selected schools are randomly picked. Every student in a selected class may participate.