

Passive Consent Parent Letter

(Date)

Dear Parent:

During the period of _____ (*insert the day(s) your school district will administer the survey*), the students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 in our school district are taking part in an important survey on substance abuse, school dropout, delinquency and violence conducted by the _____ . The survey is called the Louisiana Caring Communities Youth Survey.

The purpose of the survey is to gather information needed to plan prevention and intervention programs in our community and schools. These programs will address problems of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, school dropout, delinquency, mental and violence in our schools and communities. Information will also help judge the effectiveness of current prevention and intervention efforts. I have a copy of the survey instrument at the school office if you wish to stop by and review it.

The survey is entirely anonymous and confidential. Students will not put their names or any other identifying information on the survey booklet. In addition, the survey is completely voluntary and not mandated by the State or school. All results from the survey will be presented only in group summary form, like many opinion polls.

The survey asks questions about behaviors students or students' friends' may or may not have done. It is important to remember that the survey is anonymous, so no student's response will ever be able to be connected with that student. For the survey, students will be asked to respond to questions such as "*How wrong do you think it is for someone your age to pick a fight with someone at school?*" "*Which of the following activities for people your age are available in your community?*" "*On how many occasions (if any) have you used marijuana in the past 30 days?*" "*If you skipped school, would you be caught by your parents?*"

Your child's participation in the survey is completely voluntary. Each child will be given the option of leaving blank any question that he or she prefers not to answer. You may decline to have your child participate if you wish. Please remember this survey offers your child the opportunity to share his or her confidential opinions on very important issues being faced by our youth today. If you do decline, your son or daughter will be allowed to read or participate in some other alternative activity while his or her classmates are taking the survey.

The survey is being conducted by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning under contract with The Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). The project director for this survey is (insert name, phone number, and email address). Please feel free to contact her/him or (insert name, phone number, and email address) if you have any questions regarding the survey. A copy of the survey is posted on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning website for viewing and Bach Harrison's website. You can view by clicking a link below.

Please let me know only if you do not wish your son or daughter to participate in the study. You may do this by sending me a short letter requesting your child not participate. Feel free to call me or (*insert name of additional contact person at school*) if you have any other questions about this important study.

Sincerely,

(*Insert name of principal*)
Principal

