



Rye City School District

411 Theodore Fremd Avenue, Suite 100S
Rye, New York 10580-3845
Tel: (914) 967-6100 Ext. 6271 Fax: (914) 925-8950

Frank R. Alvarez, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

alvarezf@ryeschools.org

November 3, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Alcohol and drug abuse among youth is a challenge faced by many communities across the nation. It is the Rye City School District's hope that education related to the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse can help prevent students from engaging in unhealthy behavior. To that end, we are partnering with the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to administer a survey to our middle and high school students the last week of November.

The statewide survey is designed to help our community understand the risks our students may face regarding smoking, underage drinking, drug use, and other high-risk behaviors. It is our hope that the survey results will assist the District and other community-based organizations in tailoring our education efforts to meet identified needs. The survey data will also serve as a benchmarking tool, so we can see if and how attitudes towards drug and alcohol use change over time.

ISA /Pride Surveys, a national youth survey organization, has been hired by the State to process and analyze the results and will provide us with a District level report in May 2015.

The survey will be administered based on a random sample of period eight classes in accordance with survey guidelines. If your child's classroom is selected, he/she will be asked to fill out a paper questionnaire which can be completed in one class period. The questionnaire, once completed, will be machine read and then destroyed. The following are facts about the survey:

1. It is totally voluntary. Your child does not have to participate and does not have to give a reason for not participating. On the day of the survey, your child will be asked whether or not he or she wishes to participate and will be assigned an alternative activity (e.g., reading a book) if he or she declines to participate. Your child's participation, or non-participation, will not affect other relationships or services he or she is entitled to as a student of this school. Students who participate in the survey will not be required to answer all questions, only those that they want to answer.

2. It is totally anonymous. The survey is designed to protect your child's privacy. No names or any other identifying information will ever be recorded.
3. The Rye City School District and its community partners will use the school district level survey results to better plan prevention efforts.

A copy of the survey is available at the Principal's Office of your child's school for review. You may also call the project director, Dr. Gregory Rainone, at 646-728-4607 for more information.

If you approve your child's participation, you do not need to return this form. If you do **not** want your child to participate, simply sign and return the attached refusal form to your child's principal by November 17, 2014. If you return the form, your child will be given an alternative activity to do during the survey period.

Thank you for your assistance. This survey is an important part of New York State's efforts to keep our children healthy and safe. I hope you will allow your child to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Alvarez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Frank Alvarez
Superintendent