



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CITY OF CHICAGO

January 25, 2016

Dear Principals and Assistant Principals,

As a pediatrician and mother, I share your dedication to our city's young people. I am writing to ask for your participation in the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS). This survey will help identify opportunities and resources that will allow your students to live healthy and safe lives.

This survey provides accurate, reliable data on our students, their current health status and their behavior. With data, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), CPS and other city agencies can ensure our limited resources are used in the most effective manner focusing on communities and issues where the need is greatest.

Every two years, the IYS provides schools the opportunity to gather self-reported data from 8th, 10th and 12th graders about a variety of health issues and behaviors, including nutrition, physical activity, violence, bullying and physical and mental health. At CDPH, we use data from the IYS to identify our agency's priorities and funding allocations. The data are also used by policymakers to make citywide decisions and by CPS to guide programmatic interventions across the school system. The data also help us measure the success of our current initiatives, allowing us to make iterations necessary to improve the impact of our work.

Furthermore, participation will help your school and Chicago compete for funding and other resources from a variety of sources. You will also receive a school-level report providing you with a clearer picture of the health of your student body, helping you to make better decisions for your students.

I encourage you to participate in this vital survey. You can register at <http://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/register> or 888-333-5612. By participating in this year's survey, you will help all of us more effectively improve our work, which will in turn have a direct impact on the health and well-being of our students.

Sincerely,

Julie Morita, M.D.
Commissioner