



January 12, 2016

Principals, Assistant Principals:

RE: Illinois Youth Survey 2016

I am writing to encourage your participation in the 2016 Illinois Youth Survey (IYS), available from January through May 2016. Every two years, the Illinois Department of Human Services funds the IYS as an opportunity for schools and districts to gather self-report data from 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders about alcohol and other drug use, nutrition and fitness, violence, bullying, mental health and more. The IYS is conducted statewide in hundreds of schools, and supplies information valuable for school management, guiding prevention programs, and documenting program need to current and potential funding agencies.

Participation in the IYS can help your school and our district position to be competitive for resources that address barriers to learning and that promote student health and wellness. Other benefits include a school-level report (sent to you within 4-6 weeks of survey completion) and, if your school participated in at least one other year since 2008, you will also receive a school-level trend report in 2016 (sent about 9 months after survey completion). Additionally, the data collected from the IYS will support integrated student health and wellness metrics on the CPS Dashboard and contribution to prioritization of the Office of Student Health and Wellness' and the Office of Social and Emotional Learning's Initiatives.

You should have already received one or more email notifications from the University of Illinois' Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD), the contractor for the IYS. Register today online (<http://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/register>) or by phone (888-333-5612, toll-free). Community-based agencies throughout Chicago may be available to offer assistance with the logistics of survey preparation and administration to reduce the burden on school personnel.

Our goal is for 2016 to be the best year ever for Chicago IYS! Don't miss this opportunity to build CPS' capacity to identify and respond to key student health and wellness needs that are intimately linked with student success. For more information about the Illinois Youth Survey, please visit <http://iys.cprd.illinois.edu>.

Sincerely,

Kate Anderson Foley, PhD  
Interim Chief Officer

