October 29, 2019

Dear Administrator,

We are reaching out to you regarding the 2020 Illinois Youth Survey (IYS grades 8, 10 and 12) and the importance of your school’s participation. The IYS is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), which uses the data to apply for federal funding for prevention programming in Illinois. The University of Illinois Champaign, School of Social Work, Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) coordinates and processes the results. The IYS is also now on the Illinois State Report Card (Addendum) as a simple yes or no regarding participation.

As you know, the 2018 IYS from all Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in Austin, North Lawndale, East Garfield Park and West Garfield Park was the highest level of participation ever, with 100 per cent registration and 89 percent participation. This was the best CPS participation since the survey’s first statewide administration in 1994 and the highest participation in the City of Chicago. If your school was one of the participating schools, in the fall of 2019, you should have received a copy of your 2018 school results.

We were able to review the aggregate for the Westside. We now have excellent baseline data regarding underage drinking and other drug use, bullying, community, school and interpersonal violence, as well as social and emotional learning challenges facing our youth. The Prevention Partnership, Inc. will serve as the lead agency for our Westside schools, providing support and technical assistance as needed. Please feel free to contact Albert Orsello, Executive Director at 773-378-4195 extension 16 with any questions. We encourage you to register by December 15, 2019 and schedule your students to take the survey anytime between January and May 2020.
The Westside Black Elected Officials (WBEO) will use the aggregate data to work for securing funding to expand evidence-based programs addressing data driven needs.

Respectfully,

Emma Mitts
Alderman 37th Ward
Chairman Westside Black Elected Officials

Danny K. Davis
Congressman 7th Congressional District
Secretary, Westside Black Elected Officials

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