

Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District 507 South Main Street, P.O. Box 680, Orange, Ma. 01364

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Scott Hemlin Leslie Moody Mitchell Hughes Principal Assistant Principal Dean of Students

January 25, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students:

The Partnership for Youth is conducting the 21st annual, regional Student Health Survey on February 9 & 10, 2023 to students in grades 8, 10, and 12 and your child's class has been selected to participate in this survey.

This survey will ask about knowledge and behaviors that affect students' health and well-being, including substance use, violence, mental health, diet, and exercise. The purpose of the study is to gather the information needed to plan programs to support students and reduce problem behaviors in our schools and communities. It will also help us judge the effectiveness of our current prevention and intervention efforts.

The survey is entirely anonymous and students will not put their names or any other identifying information on the survey. All results from the study will be presented only in aggregate, summary form, similar to many opinion polls. Additionally, your child's participation in the survey is completely voluntary. Each child will be given the option of leaving blank any question that they prefer not to answer.

You may decline to have your child participate in this survey, if you wish. If you do decline, your child will be allowed to read quietly in the classroom while their classmates are taking the survey.

Please let me know in writing or email by Monday, February 6, 2023 only if you **do not** wish for your child to participate in the study. Feel free to call me if you have any other questions about this important study or if you would like to preview the survey in advance.

Sincerely,

Scott Hemlin Principal R.C. Mahar Regional School