

August 2023

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires Northfield Public Schools to notify parents/guardians and allow them to opt their child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas (“protected information surveys”):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes (“marketing surveys”), and certain physical exams and screenings.

The following is a schedule of activities requiring parental notice and opt-out for the upcoming school year. This list is not exhaustive and for surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, Northfield Public Schools will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, notification of the surveys and activities and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as an opportunity to review the surveys. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.)

Date: 2023-2024
Grades: Kindergarten - Twelfth Grades, Fall and Spring administration
Summary: The SSIS Brief + Mental Health Scales are short rating scales that are completed by students (grades 3-12) and teachers (grades K-5). Each assessment takes between 5 and 8 minutes to complete. The SSIS is used to monitor student social emotional learning (SEL), including self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making as well as emotional behavioral concerns (internalizing and externalizing). The district is using these online assessments as a universal screener given to all students to identify areas of social, emotional and behavioral strengths and concerns in order to inform teachers and school leaders in planning SEL instruction and support for our students.

[Link to student survey questions.](#)

Opt-Out: Contact your student’s school principal if you do not want your child to participate in the Minnesota Student Survey.

Activities Requiring Consent (for U.S. Department of Education funded, protected information surveys only):
A parent must sign and return a consent form to your child’s school so your child may participate in this activity.

Activities Requiring Opt-out (for any non-U.S. Department of Education funded protection information survey, including surveys administered by the Minnesota Department of Education): Parents must contact their child’s school if you do not want your child to participate in this activity.

If you wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information or marketing survey, please submit a request to your child’s school. You will be notified of the time and place where you may review these materials. You have the right to review a survey and/or instructional materials before the survey is administered to a student.