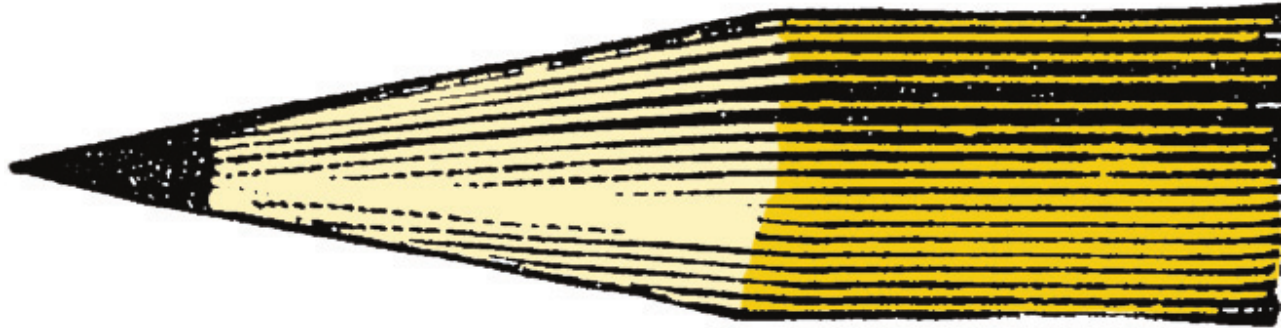


C A L I F O R N I A

*healthy kids*

S U R V E Y



## Online Administration Instructions and Assurance of Confidentiality

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## School Coordinator Instructions

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The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is a comprehensive youth health risk and resilience behavior data collection service available to all California districts. Sponsored by the California Department of Education (CDE), it consists of a comprehensive survey instrument that assesses all major areas of health-related behavior, as well as a full-service survey support system to help districts collect and use CHKS data to improve prevention and health programs. These instructions are designed for use by a school-site coordinator who organizes the survey effort at each school in cooperation with the district coordinator.

### WHY CONDUCT THE SURVEY?

The CHKS was funded by CDE in response to widespread concerns expressed by school districts and county offices of education for help in complying with various reporting requirements. The CHKS assesses key school climate, and student health and behavioral factors that research has linked to academic performance, including test-score improvement, and positive youth development and well-being. It is a valuable tool for any school improvement effort. Additionally, reducing health and learning engagement barriers identified by CHKS may improve school attendance and, thus, the ADA funding that the schools receive. More generally, this survey grew out of CDE's commitment to promoting the safe, drug-free, and healthy development of the state's youth, a commitment central to improving student academic performance.

### YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL!

Your assistance with the administration of the CHKS at your school is important and greatly appreciated. Every effort has been made to minimize the burden that survey participation places upon your school. These instructions have been created to help you in this endeavor. It is particularly important that you maintain standard procedures and monitor parent refusals. Without your help, the results may not be useful and could hurt your district's efforts to meet its compliance requirements.

- » The Importance of Standard Procedures. A primary purpose of these instructions is to ensure that administration of the survey instrument is standardized in every classroom to the fullest extent possible. Standards help protect the confidentiality and anonymity of students. Standards also improve the quality of data, ensure that parents are fully informed about the survey, and are essential for data comparability.
- » The Importance of Recording Parent Refusals. Carefully track the consent process so that you can identify students whose parents have declined participation. This will help you avoid surveying a student whose parents have declined participation.

### STEP #1 — SELECT THE CLASSROOMS

The number of schools and classrooms surveyed will depend on the number of schools in your district and each school's enrollment. At a minimum, the survey will be administered to 5th-, 7th-, 9th-, and 11th-graders in comprehensive schools, and to all students (grades 7-12) in continuation or other non-traditional schools. In most schools all students in each of these grade levels will be surveyed. In larger districts, a specific number of classrooms may be randomly selected from each school.

Your role in selecting the sample will be to work with the district coordinator to select the time period (for 5th grade) or required subject that will be used for testing, such as history, language arts, or health. In the cases where it is

necessary to select a sample of classes for surveying, you will also be asked to submit class list information to your district coordinator.

## STEP #2 — NOTIFY TEACHERS

Once you know which classrooms will be participating in the CHKS, you will need to notify the teachers. Teachers may not be directly involved in the distribution of consent letters or collection of refusals; however, they may be asked to respond to questions by parents or students. You will also need to train them on what to do in case they do receive a refusal form or verbal refusal from a parent. Please take the time to speak with the teachers to emphasize the survey's value and their importance in making the survey a success. Provide each with a copy of the Teacher Instructions, Proctor Instructions, and the survey.

## STEP #3 — CONTACT PARENTS AND MONITOR REFUSALS

The passive consent letter should be sent out as close to the beginning of the school year as possible. Research and experience show that most parents do not object to student participation. The challenge is making sure that they are fully notified. Send all consent letters and information using a method that guarantees receipt.

Your district coordinator will provide you with the proper consent form. It describes the survey and all parent and pupil rights. This letter can be modified to fit the needs of your school and should be altered to reflect any modules that are added to the required sections. It is available in Spanish and English.

Classroom distribution is not recommended for passive consent because of the risk that students will never give the forms to their parents and will thus be surveyed without permission. Home mailing, especially options that require a signature from the recipient, is strongly recommended for the distribution of passive consent letters.

It is also recommended that a single person or office, identified in district policies and communications, is responsible for monitoring and recording parent refusals. This will help avoid parent refusals from slipping through the cracks. You can use the Parent Refusal Log, included in these instructions, to keep track of which parents have declined participation. You should also make a copy of the survey available in the school office for parents to view.

## STEP #4 — PREPARE FOR CLASSROOM ADMINISTRATION

**Selecting Survey Administrators and/or Survey Proctors.** Please discuss with the district coordinator the selection and training of the survey proctors. Proctors can be school staff, administrators, counselors, nurses, teachers, or outside consultants. If teachers are used, we recommend that they administer the survey in a classroom other than their own. Students may feel more comfortable and be more likely to provide honest and complete responses if the proctor is not the regular class teacher.

**Training.** Training the proctors is very important. If proctors are not fully prepared before the class meets, the students may not be able to complete the survey within the period. Make sure the proctors have instructions and materials well in advance and hold a meeting to review and answer their questions.

**Maintain Confidentiality.** Both schools and students must feel confident that every reasonable effort has been made to protect their privacy. Ask all survey proctors to sign the Assurance of Confidentiality Agreement, found in the Proctor Instructions. This reinforces the proctor's obligation to protect student privacy and can be shown to parents or administrators to demonstrate the commitment to confidentiality. They should also be trained to read the Introductory

Script, also in the Proctor Instructions, to students before the survey. This assures that students know they will not be punished or rewarded for choosing to/not to participate.

### Two or three days before the survey

Distribute the following materials to each classroom:

- » a list of students that cannot take the survey because their parents declined participation
- » URL for online administration
- » Teacher Instructions
- » Proctor Instructions, including the Introductory Script and the Assurance of Confidentiality agreement

### STEP #5 — SCHEDULE MAKE-UP DATES

**Make-up Dates.** Because some students will be absent on even the most carefully selected administration date, you may want to schedule an alternate or make-up session for those students who may have missed the first survey administration. Conduct the make-up session using the same survey administration procedures and in a setting that will protect student privacy.

### STEP #6 — PREPARE AND RETURN MATERIALS

After the survey is completed, the survey administrator/proctor informs the School Coordinator that survey administration is done. The School Coordinator confirms that all surveys have been completed and informs the District Coordinator. Keep the parent refusal forms and confidentiality assurances at the school in case any parents have concerns and need verification.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more detailed information, please contact your district coordinator. In addition, CHKS staff can support you in your efforts to administer the CHKS. Please call us toll-free at 888.841.7536, or visit us online at [calschls.org](http://calschls.org)

# Parent Refusal Log

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SCHOOL:

1.	STUDENT'S NAME	TEACHER	GRADE
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
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19.			
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22.			
23.			
24.			
25.			
26.			
27.			
28.			
29.			

## Elementary School Teacher Instructions (Grade 5)

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Your classroom was selected to participate in your school district's administration of the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). Your primary contact for any questions about the survey and its procedures is your school and/or district coordinator.

### STEP #1 — OBTAIN PARENT CONSENT

**Positive permission is required.** Only those students with signed written permission from a parent/guardian can participate. Consent forms are very important. You should:

- » Send consent forms to parents/guardians at least *two weeks prior* to the scheduled survey.
- » Regularly remind students to return consent forms.
- » Follow-up with non-responding parents to encourage return of consent forms.
- » Inform your school coordinator if the consent return rate is less than 50% within one week of the scheduled administration date.
- » Maintain the attached Parent Permission Log to aid in tracking consent forms.

### STEP #2 — PREPARE FOR SURVEY

To be fully prepared to administer the survey, review the following issues:

- » **Survey materials.** At least two or three days before the survey, you should receive the URL for online survey administration.
- » **Answer student questions.** Students may have questions about their participation in the survey. Your school or district coordinator should have made preparations on how to answer these questions or provide referrals to other people or programs. Be sure you have been informed of these arrangements.

### STEP #3 — SET UP ROOM ENVIRONMENT

On the day of the survey:

- » Identify eligible students (verify consent). Collect remaining consent forms, identify and separate those students whose parents provided permission for them to participate.
- » Seat participating students so their responses can't be observed by another student or adult.
- » Provide class work or activities for students who will not be participating. They do not have to be removed from the classroom.

### STEP #4 — PREPARE SURVEY PROCTOR

If you are also proctoring the survey, please read the Proctor Instructions. If not, give the Proctor Instructions to the assigned proctor.

# Parent Permission Log

---

CLASSROOM:

	STUDENT'S NAME	RETURNED CONSENT FORM?		PARTICIPATE?	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
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29.					
30.					



## Secondary School Teacher Instructions (Grades 7, 9, & 11)

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Your classroom was selected to participate in your school district's administration of the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). Your primary contact for any questions about the survey and its procedures is your school and/or district coordinator.

### STEP #1 — TRACK PARENT REFUSALS

It is very important that you do not survey any student whose parents denied their child's participation. You should regularly communicate with your school coordinator to track parent refusals. You may be asked to send a notification letter home to parents to assist in this effort.

### STEP #2 — PREPARE FOR SURVEY

To be fully prepared to administer the survey, review the following issues:

- » **Survey materials.** At least two or three days before the survey, you should receive the URL for online survey administration.
- » **Answer student questions.** Students may have questions about their participation in the survey. Your school or district coordinator should have made preparations on how to answer these questions or provide referrals to other people or programs. Be sure you have been informed of these arrangements.

### STEP #3 — SET UP ROOM ENVIRONMENT

On the day of the survey:

- » Identify ineligible students. Your district or school coordinator should provide you with a list of students whose parents denied their participation. Collect any remaining refusal forms. Identify and separate those students who must not take the survey.
- » Seat participating students so their responses can't be observed by another student or adult.
- » Provide class work or activities for students who will not be participating. They do not have to be removed from the classroom.

### STEP #4 — PREPARE SURVEY PROCTOR

If you are also proctoring the survey, please read the Proctor Instructions. If not, give the Proctor Instructions to the assigned proctor.

## Elementary School Proctor Instructions (Grade 5)

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These instructions are designed for use by the person who proctors the *California Healthy Kids Survey* (CHKS) in the classroom.

### PROCTORING THE SURVEY

1. **Arrive early.** Give yourself ample time to prepare for survey administration (i.e., turn the computers on, log into the survey website). It is ***vital*** that the computers be arranged so that only the student answering the survey questions can see the monitor.
2. **Sign Assurance of Confidentiality.** Read and sign the attached confidentiality agreement and give it to the school or district coordinator.
3. **Distribute survey.** Provide each participating student with the URL for the online survey.
4. **Read Introductory Script to students.** The attached script assures that students know they will not be punished or rewarded for choosing to/not to participate. It was designed for your protection.
5. **Monitor students.** To ensure privacy and confidentiality, and to promote honest responses, do not wander around the room while students complete the survey. However, do observe their behavior to ensure that disruptions do not occur or that students do not try to find out how other students answered.
6. **Conclude the survey.** At the end of the survey period:
  - » Make sure all the students have submitted their surveys and closed the browser window.
  - » Thank the students for their participation.

## Assurance of Confidentiality of Survey Data

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The California Department of Education is firmly committed to maintaining the confidentiality of individual respondents' data obtained through surveys.

### PROCEDURES FOR MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY

1. All survey administrators shall sign this Assurance of Confidentiality.
2. All survey administrators shall keep completely confidential the names of respondents, all information or opinions collected, and any information about respondents learned incidentally. Survey administrators shall exercise reasonable caution to prevent access by others to survey data in their possession.

### PLEDGE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

I hereby certify that I have carefully read and will cooperate fully with the above procedures on confidentiality. I will keep completely confidential all information arising from surveys concerning individual respondents to which I gain access. I will not discuss, disclose, disseminate, or provide access to survey data and identifiers. I will devote my best efforts to ensure that there is compliance with the required procedures by personnel whom I supervise. I give my personal pledge that I shall abide by this Assurance of Confidentiality.

My signature below indicates I have read and agree to the Pledge of Confidentiality.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATOR NAME (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Introductory Script for Survey Administration (Grade 5)

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“Our district is conducting the California Healthy Kids Survey. You are among thousands of students throughout the state who are taking this survey.

The survey asks questions about your school, drug use, violence and other health behaviors.

This is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers and you will not be timed. The answers you give are very important. Please read each question carefully and answer it based on what you really know or do. Answer the questions truthfully and as best as you can.

The survey is anonymous and confidential. No one will ever be able to connect you with your answers. Your answers are private.

Participation is voluntary. You are here because your parents or guardians gave their permission for you to participate, but you don't have to take the survey or complete any questions that you do not want to answer.

The State of California wants to thank you for your help in filling out the survey. Your participation will help us to better understand health-related behaviors and develop better health education and prevention programs. If you have any questions after completing the survey, your school principal or counselor is ready to spend time with anyone who feels that they would like to talk over their feelings about the survey. *Anyone who does not wish to participate should tell me now.*

It is important that you answer based on what you really know and do. Don't pick a response just because you think that's what someone wants you to say. The first questions ask some basic information about your background such your age and sex. We need this information to understand how behaviors differ among youth.

Now you can read the directions on the computer screen and go to question number one. When you have completed the entire survey, click the submit button and exit the survey.

If you have any questions, please raise your hand. Thank you. Please begin.”

## Secondary School Proctor Instructions (Grades 7, 9, & 11)

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These instructions are designed for use by the person who proctors the *California Healthy Kids Survey* (CHKS) in the classroom.

### PROCTORING THE SURVEY

1. **Arrive early.** Give yourself ample time to prepare for survey administration (i.e., turn the computers on, log into the survey website). It is ***vital*** that the computers be arranged so that only the student answering the survey questions can see the monitor.
2. **Sign Assurance of Confidentiality.** Read and sign the attached confidentiality agreement and give it to the school or district coordinator.
3. **Distribute survey.** Provide each participating student with the URL for the online survey.
4. **Read Introductory Script to students.** The attached script assures that students know they will not be punished or rewarded for choosing to/not to participate. It was designed for your protection.
5. **Monitor students.** To ensure privacy and confidentiality, and to promote honest responses, do not wander around the room while students complete the questionnaire. However, do observe their behavior to ensure that disruptions do not occur or that students do not try to find out how other students answered.
6. **Conclude the survey.** At the end of the survey period:
  - » Make sure all the students have submitted their surveys and closed the browser window.
  - » Thank the students for their participation.

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### PLEDGE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

I hereby certify that I have carefully read and will cooperate fully with the above procedures on confidentiality. I will keep completely confidential all information arising from surveys concerning individual respondents to which I gain access. I will not discuss, disclose, disseminate, or provide access to survey data and identifiers. I will devote my best efforts to ensure that there is compliance with the required procedures by personnel whom I supervise. I give my personal pledge that I shall abide by this Assurance of Confidentiality.

My signature below indicates I have read and agree to the Pledge of Confidentiality.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATOR NAME (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Introductory Script for Survey Administration (Grades 7, 9, & 11)

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“Our district is conducting the California Healthy Kids Survey. You are among thousands of students throughout the state who are taking this survey.

The survey asks questions about your school, drug use, violence and other health-risk behaviors.

This is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers and you will not be timed. The answers you give are very important. Please read each question carefully and answer it based on what you really know or do. Answer the questions truthfully and as best as you can.

The survey is anonymous and confidential. No one will ever be able to connect you with your answers. Your answers are private.

Participation is voluntary. You are here because your parents or guardians gave their permission for you to participate, but you don't have to take the survey or complete any questions that you do not want to answer.

The State of California wants to thank you for your help in filling out the survey. Your participation will help us to better understand health-related behaviors and develop better health education and prevention programs. If you have any questions after completing the survey, your school principal or counselor is ready to spend time with anyone who feels that they would like to talk over their feelings about the survey. *Anyone who does not wish to participate should tell me now.*

It is important that you answer based on what you really know and do. Don't pick a response just because you think that's what someone wants you to say.

The first questions ask some basic information about your background such your as age, sex, and ethnicity. We need this information to understand how behaviors differ among youth.

Now you can read the directions on the computer screen and go to question number one. When you have completed the entire survey, click the submit button and exit the survey.

If you have any questions, please raise your hand. Thank you. Please begin.”