

Weber City Elementary School

322 Jennings Street Weber City, VA 24290
Telephone (276) 386-7981 Fax (276) 386-9289
Laura Pyne, Principal Kari White, Assistant Principal
Robyn Chapman, Secretary

December 14, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Department of Education are conducting the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions. We will survey students in 6th grade, classroom instructors and staff, beginning in winter 2023. The purpose of this survey is to measure student support, student engagement, school discipline, and safety conditions in each school. This information will be used to guide educational practices that produce a safe and supportive school environment. We are required to inform you about this survey, but it is optional for students to complete.

This letter is to provide you with information on the student survey. The survey will be completed online between January 16-20, 2023. The survey does not ask for your child's name and all answers are anonymous. No one, including teachers or administrators, will know how your child answered the survey. You will not have access to your child's survey answers even as their parent or guardian. A *review copy* of the survey is posted on our school's webpage (<https://wce.scottschools.com/>) or you may type the following link, to see the survey: https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/sites/dcjs.virginia.gov/files/law-enforcement/files/vcscs/2023_vss_student_survey-final_approved_1_0.pdf

For more information from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, please visit the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/VaSchoolSurvey>.

The survey will ask questions such as how students feel about their school, how students get along with one another and their teachers, how students feel about school rules, and their perceptions of their teachers' willingness to help them. Students will also be asked what kinds of bullying they may have observed during school and whether they have been bullied themselves. Also included in this survey are answer choices about sexual orientation and gender identity.

According to Code of Virginia § 22.1-79.3. Policies regarding certain activities paragraph C: "in any case in which a questionnaire or survey requesting that students provide sexual information, mental health information, medical information, information on student health risk behaviors pursuant to § 32.1-73.8, other information on controlled substance use, or any other information that the school board deems to be sensitive in nature is to be administered, the school board shall notify the parent concerning the administration of such questionnaire or survey in writing not less than 30 days prior to its administration."

All students in your child's grade level are eligible to participate in the survey. Students participating in remote instruction and in-person instruction are both eligible to participate. **The survey is voluntary and your child can decide not to participate. No action will be taken against you, your child, or the school if your child does not participate. If you do NOT wish for your child to participate, please notify the school office by telephone (276) 386-7981 or letter before January 9.**

Your child will not receive any immediate benefit from participating in the survey, but the survey will help us to maintain a safe, inviting, and supportive learning environment for your child.

Thank you for your cooperation in this study of Virginia's schools from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Department of Education