



2020 PANORAMA STUDENT SURVEY NOTIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL LETTER

October 13, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Each year, we ask students to complete a survey about social emotional learning for DC Public Schools, the Panorama Student Survey, to help DCPS and school administrators better understand what students in grades 3 and higher think about their school experiences and their social and emotional learning. The survey will be administered online this fall between October 19 and November 2 through a link shared over Canvas.

This survey is voluntary and confidential. Your child is not required to participate, but the feedback would be very valuable. This survey asks only for your child's honest experience and opinions. Your child's grades will not be affected by his or her responses. Your child's privacy will be protected to the extent allowed by law. Your child's name will never be used in reports. As in previous years, the survey asks students in grades 6-12 about their gender and sexual identity. These questions help the district promote equitable treatment for all students in accordance with our Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Policy Guidance. They are entirely voluntary, and students who are not comfortable answering can skip them.

You may opt your child out of the survey if you do not want your child to take it. The deadline to opt out is October 23. If you opt out after the survey opens, your child may be expected to take it in class, but their responses will not be counted.

A Policy Change on Survey Results

DCPS is piloting an exciting new tool that will support our **Capital Commitment to ensure every student feels loved, challenged, and prepared**, called the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Platform. The platform enables teachers and staff to see data on students' attendance, behavior, academic, social emotional learning (SEL), and interventions in one place. Having access to your child's data in this way allows educators to make informed decisions about how best to support your child should he or she experience any difficulty in school. Eventually all DCPS schools will use the tool to support students.

The MTSS Platform will change DCPS' policy on access to students' Panorama Survey results. Using the platform, a student's teachers will be able to see how students scored themselves on different SEL topics on the survey, like Self-Efficacy or Self-Management. They will NOT be able to see how a student answered individual questions and will NOT see any information from Student Satisfaction questions or questions on gender and sexual identity. The MTSS Platform is secure and can be accessed only by teachers or staff at a student's school. For details on what survey information will and won't be shown on the MTSS platform, visit dcps.dc.gov/surveys.

You may retroactively "opt out" your child from past Panorama Student Surveys at the link below if you do not want your students' past survey results available to their teachers on the MTSS Platform. However, the MTSS Platform and the Panorama Student Surveys are valuable parts of DCPS' work. If you're considering opting out, we urge you to read about Panorama on our website first. You can also reach out to panoramasurvey@k12.dc.gov to learn more.

If you have any questions regarding the Panorama Student Survey and the MTSS platform or if you want to see the survey questions students will receive, please visit dcps.dc.gov/surveys.

Sincerely,
The Office of School Improvements and Supports & the Office of Data Systems and Strategy

If you do not want your child to take the Panorama Student Survey this fall, or if you want to retroactively opt your child out of past surveys because of the new MTSS Platform, fill out this form by October 23: [Fall 2020 Panorama Student Opt-Out](#). *To fill out the form, you need your child's student ID.*