

Information Regarding the California Healthy Kids Survey

The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is being given to BUSD students in grades 5, 7, 9, 11, and all students at Berkeley Technology Academy (BTA) in January and February 2014. The California Department of Education requires schools and districts to ask students about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues, as well as questions about school safety, the learning environment, and student health. Participation in CHKS is voluntary on the part of the student. The District hopes that parents/guardians encourage their child to participate in CHKS so that his or her opinion and knowledge can be part of the information gleaned from the survey. The survey is anonymous. No names or any other identifying information is connected to the answers except for the name of the school. The survey takes approximately 50 minutes.

Procedures for Parental Consent

In order for 5th grade students to participate in CHKS, a parent/guardian must give written permission by signing off on the informed consent form from the school and returning the signed consent form to the school on or before January 17.

Students in grades 7, 9, 11, and at BTA will all participate in the study unless the parent/guardian provides the school with written notification that they do not want their child to participate in CHKS.

Written notices regarding objections to participation in CHKS must be provided to the school on or before January 24 (for 7th grade students) or January 31 (for 9th grade, 11th grade, and BTA students). All schools are providing detailed parental consent notices to parents/caregivers.

The Schedule for CHKS

CHKS will be given to students in grade 5 between January 27 and 31.

CHKS will be given to students in grades 7 between February 3 and 7 (during science).

CHKS will be given to BHS students (including Independent Study students) in grades 9 (during English), 11 (during social studies) and all students at BTA (during English), between February 10 and 19.

The results from the survey will help provide BUSD with information to improve school safety, student health, and the learning environment. Information from CHKS has recently helped BUSD obtain funds for alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention education. CHKS is administered every other year.

If you have questions regarding CHKS, please contact the Dr. Susan Craig, Director of Student Services, at 644-6316.

If you wish to view the survey, you may do so at the school office or on-line at *berkeleyschools.net*.