

May 4, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Seattle Public Schools was awarded a Federal Drug Free Communities Grant to reduce youth alcohol and drug use. This work involves identifying prevention strategies and engaging the Community through Coalition building in the Central Seattle District. The Central Seattle Drug Free Communities Coalition would like to have current data on youth access and perceptions to help guide choices about these strategies. Working with three Central District schools (Garfield High School, Washington Middle School, and Madrona K-8), the CSDFCC will administer a short 10-15 minute survey to all Grade 6-11 students in May 2010. The Coalition will also administer the survey at schools with higher populations of Central Seattle youth. These schools include Franklin High School, Cleveland High School and Mercer Middle School.

What kind of questions will be asked on the survey?

Survey questions will focus on individual alcohol and drug use, perceptions of other students use; access to alcohol and marijuana; actual and perceived enforcement of school and community policies and laws, and perceptions of parental approval / awareness.

A copy of the full survey is available for your review by contacting Randy Beaulieu at rjbeaulieu@seattleschools.org

How will student identity be protected?

To ensure confidentiality, no student name or identification code will be on the survey. Student survey answers will not be traced to any specific student. The surveys will be administered by Coalition volunteers and Seattle University students. Completed surveys will be placed into a manila envelope and sealed by a classroom student volunteer.

Is participation in the survey required?

Participation in the survey is completely voluntary. You may decline to have your child take the survey and do something else at that time, such as reading or doing homework. Even if your child participates, he/she may decide to skip some questions or not answer at all. Whether or not your child participates will not affect your child's grades or standing in school.

Please contact Randy Beaulieu at rjbeaulieu@seattleschools.org or call 253-261-8385 by May 14, 2010 if you do not wish for your child to participate in the survey.

Sincerely,

Kaaren Andrews, Principal
Madrone K-8

