



## Information for Survey Participants

Your school is one of many schools that have chosen to participate in the High School Survey of Student Engagement (HSSSE) and/or the Middle Grades Survey of Student Engagement (MGSSE) this year. HSSSE is for students in high schools, grades 9-12. MGSSE is for students in middle schools, grades 5-8.

“Student engagement” is a term that means student involvement or student connectedness with the work you do in school and with the school community. The survey asks students a wide range of questions about their beliefs, their feelings, and their thoughts on their experiences in school, their work, the activities they do, their interactions with teachers and other students, and what they like and don’t like about school. Students’ responses will help our school better understand students’ needs in order to create a school environment that is engaging, challenging, and productive for them.

Formal Study Name: High School Survey of Student Engagement  
IRB Study Number: 901000068

## Parents or Guardians

Please read the following information for student participants in the HSSSE and MGSSE surveys.

If you do NOT want your child to participate in the survey, please notify your school office and instruct your child to not participate in the survey.

If you allow your student to participate in the survey, please discuss the following information with them to ensure they understand their rights as a survey participant. Students may still choose not to take the survey.

Schools CANNOT require students to complete the survey and they CANNOT penalize students in any way for not taking the survey.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact your school to speak with your school’s contact person for the survey or contact the researchers as indicated in the student information below.

# Students

Here are some things you need to know before taking this survey.

1. **This survey is for research.** We are doing this research study because we are trying to find out more about your school environment, your classroom experiences, and the support you receive from your teachers, classmates, and school administrators.

You are being asked to be in this research study because we hope to learn about how involved you are in your school, why you choose to be or not to be involved, and what kinds of improvements you want to see in your school.

The survey takes 20 minutes to complete, but you have up to 30 minutes if necessary. You may find that completing this survey will help you think about your school experiences up to this point. By participating in this research, we hope to learn something from you that will help your school and others like it improve what they do.

2. **Participation is voluntary.** You may choose not to take the survey, or you may choose not to complete the survey at any time. Your school will not penalize you if you choose not to complete the survey.
3. **You can skip any questions.** You may find some questions uncomfortable, embarrassing, or confusing. You are welcome to skip any questions. Your responses to any questions that you answer will only be recorded after you click 'NEXT' on the final screen of the online version of the survey. If your school is using the paper version of the surveys, you may write "WITHDRAW" or "DO NOT COUNT" to prevent your survey from being counted.
4. **The survey is anonymous.** Our research team will see your individual results, but we will not know your name or any other personal information about you that you choose to omit from the survey.

**If you have any questions, you can contact the research team.** Questions about the survey can be sent to the Principal Investigator, Dr. Patricia Muller and the HSSSE/MGSSE Team. They may be reached by email at [hssse@iu.edu](mailto:hssse@iu.edu), or by phone at 812-855-4438. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or if you would like to discuss any complaints or concerns about the survey, please contact the Indiana University Human Subjects office by phone at 812-856-4242, or by email at [irb@iu.edu](mailto:irb@iu.edu).