

December, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are writing to inform you about a student survey that will be administered at your child's school called the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This is the sixth year the Illinois State Board of Education will implement this survey across the state. This survey is based on 20 years of research at the University of Chicago. It asks students about their experiences in school, giving school leaders critical student input to help develop school improvement plans.

Student participants will be required to log-in using their student ID and birth date in order to complete the survey. Students' identities will be completely confidential. Teachers or administrators will never see individual responses to survey questions and will only receive aggregated information, such as the total percentage of students who agree homework assignments help them learn the course material.

Please be aware that under the Protection of Pupil Rights Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232(c) (1) (A), you have the right to review a copy of the questions asked of your student(s). Survey questions can be found on the Illinois 5Essentials [website \(https://Illinois.5-essentials.org\)](https://Illinois.5-essentials.org).

Our fourth and fifth grade students will participate in a pilot of the 5Essentials Student Survey. Normally, 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade students participate.

If you do not want your son or daughter to participate, fill out the information below and ask your child to return this sheet to his or her teacher.

Thank you for your cooperation,  
Ms. Oldham

I **DO NOT** want my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to take part in the 2017-18 Illinois  
CHILD'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  
5Essentials Survey.

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SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

DATE

Dear Parent,

Beginning November 15, students, teachers and parents across Illinois will have an opportunity to participate in the sixth annual statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child's school. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child's school.

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey will be administered online by UChicago Impact at the University of Chicago. The survey gathers data related to five indicators that can predict important student outcomes, including improved attendance and larger test score gains. These five indicators that affect and predict school success are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

Prior research in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of these "5Essential" indicators were 10 times more likely to improve student learning gains in math and reading than those that were weak on three or more Essentials.

All teachers and 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be responding to this survey. 5Essentials Reports will be generated for schools if their teachers and/or students meet the response rate threshold of 50 percent. These reports will be sent to schools and districts in March 2018 and will also be included in the State School Report Card.

Additionally, your district has chosen to provide the optional 5Essentials parent survey. If at least 20 percent of Cowden-Herrick Elementary School parents complete this survey, a parent supplement will also be generated. The parent data will not be reported on the State Report Card.

Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will help us understand the conditions at your child's school and guide improvement. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child.

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey will be conducted November 15 through January 18, 2018. To take the survey please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> and select the appropriate survey to begin.

For more information about the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, or to view previous years' Reports, please visit <https://illinois.5-essentials.org>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 5Essentials Client Services at 1-866-440-1874 or [5essentials@uchicago.edu](mailto:5essentials@uchicago.edu).

Sincerely,  
Ms. Oldham