



2025 MIYHS – Classroom Script

(For paper-based 5th/6th grade survey administration)

[PLEASE PASS OUT SURVEYS AND READ THE FOLLOWING ALOUD TO THE CLASS:]

“Today, you will have an opportunity to complete the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey. This survey is part of a study being done by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Department of Education to help us gather the information needed to plan important health-based programs to deal with problems such as drug use or violence in our school and community. This information will also help us to learn how well current programs are working.”

“I’m going to read some instructions to you about completing the survey. Please listen carefully and read the information along with me.”

Read: “Thank you for taking this survey. In order for it to be useful, it is important that you answer each question honestly. All of your answers will be kept secret. They will never be seen by anyone at your school. Your name will not be put with your answers. Again, thank you very much for being an important part of this project.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. This is not a test, so there is no right or wrong answers. We would like you to work quickly, so that you can finish.*
- 2. All of the questions should be answered by marking one of the answer spaces. If you do not find an answer that fits best, use one that comes close. If you do not understand the question or cannot answer it, just leave it blank.*
- 3. Your answers will be read by a computer. To help the computer read your answers, please do the following:*
 - Use only a blue or black pen or pencil*
 - Carefully make heavy marks inside the ovals.*
 - Completely erase any answer you wish to change.*
 - Make no other marks or comments on the answer pages. Any extra marks will cause the computer to make mistakes when it reads your survey.*

This survey is about your health behavior and things that affect it. It will tell us what you and other students do that may affect your health. About 95,000 students in Maine are being asked to take this survey. The answers you give will be used to create better health education and programs for young people like yourself.

DO NOT write your name on this survey. The answers you give will be kept private. No one will know what you write. Answer the questions based on what you really do.

You may choose to take the survey or not take it. Your choice will not affect your grade in this class. There is some risk that some questions may make you feel uncomfortable. If you are not comfortable answering a question, just leave it blank. You can stop answering questions at any time you want. There is no penalty for not completing the survey. It

should not take you longer than this class period.

The benefit to you in taking this survey is that your school and community may be better able to create programs that help you stay healthy.

Some questions ask about your background such as your race, age, and gender. These will be used only to describe the types of students completing the survey. No answers will be used to find out your name. No names will ever be reported. The survey is research. This means that we will use your answers to help us learn about Maine students in general.

Be sure to read every question. Fill in the ovals completely. When you are finished, follow the instructions of your teacher."

"The first thing that we are going to do is to fill out the SCHOOL ID and CLASS ID codes."

[THE SCHOOL ID AND CLASS ID FROM THE FRONT OF THE CLASSROOM ENVELOPE SHOULD BE WRITTEN ON THE BOARD. THE STUDENTS WILL FILL THESE NUMBERS IN ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE SURVEY BOOKLETS.]

"You may begin."

[WITH 5 MINUTES TO THE END OF THE SURVEY CLASS PERIOD:]

"The survey time is over in 5 minutes. If you are not finished with the survey, please answer what you can within the next 5 minutes.

[AT THE END OF THE SURVEY SESSION:]

Read: "Please stop where you are and close the survey booklet. I'm passing around an envelope. Please put your survey inside the envelope and pass it to the next person. Will the last person seal the envelope and return it to me?"

"If this survey has raised concerns about alcohol or drug use or any other issue, please speak to a school counselor or other trusted adult. You can also call the Maine Crisis Line at 888-568-1112 or text/call 988. There is also a poster in the School Nurse or Guidance Offices with a variety of crisis hotline numbers. If you have questions about your rights related to the survey, I can give you information on whom to call. On behalf of our school, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and the Maine Department of Education, I would like to thank you for your participation in this important study."

[IMMEDIATELY RETURN SURVEYS IN THE SEALED ENVELOPE TO THE SAFE, CONFIDENTIAL COLLECTION AREA THAT WAS DESIGNATED BY YOUR SCHOOL'S MIYHS COORDINATOR.]

****GENERAL INSTRUCTION FOR ANSWERING STUDENTS' QUESTIONS****

The general responses listed below should be used when a student has a question about a particular item or set of items on the survey. Choose the most appropriate general response from the set of responses listed below:

Student does not understand the question or a particular word in the question:

- "If you are not sure what a particular word or question means, try to answer it to the best of your ability or leave it blank."

Student is not sure if they know the right answer:

- "I want to stress that there are no right or wrong answers. Answer the best that you can."

Student cannot find a response option that fits exactly:

- "If you can't find an answer that fits exactly, choose the one that comes closest."

Student says the question doesn't apply:

- "If the question does not apply to you, try to answer it to the best of your ability or leave it blank."

Student asks why there are no skip patterns:

- "There are no skip patterns in the survey to make sure that student confidentiality is protected."