



2024-2025 TN Together Student Survey

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the 2024-25 TN Together Student Survey?

The TN Together Student Survey is a state-funded substance use survey for Tennessee public school students in 8th, 10th, and 12th grade. Funding for participation is provided by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), Division of Substance Abuse Services (DSAS). This anonymous survey measures youth behaviors, attitudes, and social norms related to substance misuse, emotional wellness, and other risk behaviors. Copies of the survey questions are available for parents to review through their child's school or can be found at <https://bit.ly/2024-25-tn-together-survey>.

What is the purpose of the 2024-25 TN Together Student Survey?

The TN Together Student Survey is a part of the TN Together initiative, which addresses the opioid epidemic in Tennessee. Survey results are anonymous and will be used for state and local needs assessment, planning, and prevention efforts. The purpose of this survey is to provide Tennessee communities with local data that they can use to strengthen prevention efforts.

Does my child have to complete the survey?

No. Participation in the Tennessee Together Student Survey is completely voluntary. Your child will not be penalized in any way if they refuse to participate. We are asking your permission for your child to take the survey, but even after you give permission your child can choose not to participate or skip any question(s) they wish to skip. The survey will be conducted during a regular class period at school.

How do I give permission for my child to participate in the survey?

The State of Tennessee requires your written permission for your child to participate in the survey. Please select either "YES" or "NO" on the preceding page and return the completed consent form to the school. If your child's school is using an electronic consent form, you may indicate your consent by checking a box to indicate that you **DO** or **DO NOT** consent, or by providing a digital signature.

If your child is 18 years or older, they will be asked for informed consent to participate in the survey. Please contact the Survey Director, Jess Lawson-Adams at tn-together-survey@emt.org or (877) 355-6027 if you have questions.

Can I review the survey questions before I consent for my child to participate?

Yes. Under Tennessee state law (Tenn. Code § 49-2-211), schools must allow parents access to review all surveys, analyses, or evaluations prior to surveys being administered to the child. Copies of the 2024-2025 TN Together Student Survey questions can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2024-25-tn-together-survey>. You may also request a copy of the survey form from your child's school. Please contact Dr. Jess Lawson-Adams at tn-together-survey@emt.org or (877) 355-6027, if you have questions.

Will anyone know how my child answers the questions?

No. Your child's responses to the questions are anonymous. Students do not write their names on the survey forms. Further, no one except the research study staff will see the students' anonymous data. Additionally, answers from all youth participants are summarized in all reports and products so that no individual student's data is ever made public.



What are the risks involved in taking the survey?

More than 20,000 Tennessee students have taken a version of this survey over the years. Most students experienced little difficulty in answering the questions. However, because answering questions about personal and sensitive behaviors may be uncomfortable, students are assured that they can skip any question they do not wish to answer. Additionally, schools are advised to have a school counselor available should a student need support.

What benefits are there from my child participating in this research?

Although your child will not directly benefit from completing the survey, their answers—along with those of thousands of others—will provide valuable information that may be used to improve prevention and intervention programs aimed at promoting students' wellbeing.