

# PARENTAL CONSENT POLICY

## for Idaho Substance Abuse Prevention Programs Serving Minors

(updated September 2025)

### General Survey Overview

To evaluate the outcomes of substance misuse prevention activities funded via the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS BG) for Primary Prevention Programs, the Idaho Office of Drug Policy (ODP) requires grantees implementing direct service, evidence-based programs to conduct retrospective survey assessments with older youth and parent program participants. The retrospective survey assessments aim to measure the substance use-related attitudes and behavioral outcomes for participants of SUPTRS BG-funded evidence-based programs implemented in various settings and demographic groups – with the goal of helping ODP and grantees better understand programmatic outcomes, demonstrate the impact of SUPTRS BG Primary Prevention funding, and guide state- and local-level prevention planning.

There are two program participant surveys that grantees will administer with two participant groups during the SFY2026 grant award period (7/1/2025-6/30/2026):

1. Participant group: **Older youth participants in grades 6-12** – that receive direct service, evidence-based curriculum programming *and that the grantee organization has received parental consent to survey.*

Survey: **Retrospective Older Youth (Grades 6-12) Survey** [available in English & Spanish] – [view example survey](#)

2. Participant group: **Parent participants** that receive direct service, evidence-based curriculum programming (*referring to parent participants in parent-specific programs, not parents of youth in youth programs*).

Survey: **Retrospective Parent Survey** [available in English & Spanish] – [view example survey](#)

### Older Youth Survey & Parental Consent Overview

Older Youth Survey Details: administration of the Older Youth Survey is limited to youth participants in grades 6 through 12. Youth in grades 5 and under are not surveyed. Additionally, Older Youth Survey responses are anonymous, confidential, and voluntary. Student data cannot be linked to a student's name in any form or manner.

Parental Consent Details: **Parental consent must be obtained before the implementation of older youth surveys.** ODP grantees that receive SUPTRS BG funding to implement direct-service, evidence-based programming with older youth in grades 6-12 – and will be administering surveys with older youth program participants – are required to obtain parental consent prior to administering Older Youth Surveys (parental consent is not necessary with Parent participants and the Parent Survey).

Parental consent procedures provide an opportunity for the parents/guardians of youth program participants to be officially notified of the program, survey administration, timeline, content and intent. Parents/guardians may choose to decline or accept their child's participation.

When obtaining parental consent, grantees have the option of using passive parental consent or active parental consent procedures, depending on the preferences of the involved stakeholders.

- Under **passive consent** procedures, parents/guardians inform the program facilitator only if they do not want their child to participate in the survey process (opt out).
- Under **active consent** procedures, parents/guardians inform the program facilitator only if they do want their child to participate (opt in).

School and school district grantees should review [Idaho Statute 33-6001 Parental Rights in Education](#) prior to determining which method of parental consent they will utilize.

**Once parental consent procedures are implemented:**

- If a parent/guardian *does not* provide consent for a student to be surveyed, the student is only prohibited from partaking in the survey process, the student can still participate in the actual programming unless otherwise specified by the parent.
- Providers are responsible for keeping a list of youth whose parents declined their participation in the survey and ensuring that surveys are only administered to youth whose parents have provided consent.
- Parents/guardians should be notified of any substantive changes in survey policies, dates, or content that occur after the initial notification.

**Considerations When Choosing Between Active and Passive Consent Procedures**

- Active consent provides extra protection against surveying a student whose parents did not receive notification and/or do not approve of participation but failed to inform you. This extra protection may be important if risk behavior surveys are a sensitive issue in your community.
- Again, School and school district grantees should review [Idaho Statute 33-6001 Parental Rights in Education](#) prior to determining which method of parental consent they will utilize. This statute only refers to school and school district grantees, it *does not* refer to public and non-profit grantees that are *not* a school or school district but may be doing some portion of their programming on school property.
- Passive consent procedures generally require less cost and time to implement and typically result in a higher rate of youth survey participation and provide a more representative survey sample.
- Regardless of whether grantees choose to utilize active or passive consent, providers should take special precautions to demonstrate that they made every reasonable effort possible to inform parents about the survey and to give them opportunities to opt out.

## **Recommendations for Obtaining Active and Passive Consent**

Survey procedures should ensure that parents receive the consent materials and have sufficient time and opportunities to either refuse participation (aka “opt out” – if using passive consent procedures) or accept participation (aka “opt in” – if using active consent procedures). ODP recommends the following:

- Grantees stress that youth survey participation is voluntary in all communications. Notify students and parents in writing and verbally (before survey administration) that survey responses are completely anonymous and that youth have the right to decline participation and to not answer any survey questions that make them uncomfortable. Make sure students feel comfortable declining participation.
- Send all consent information and forms via a method that guarantees receipt. For example, the information can be put into a parent handbook that the parent signs.
- Use multiple contact techniques. Do everything possible to ensure parents receive notification.
- Make sure all materials are language appropriate for parents and are at an 8th grade reading level.
- Make opting out or opting in convenient. Again, use multiple methods: a written form that can be turned into a facilitator/grantee, a phone number to call, or email address. Each channel should reach one single identified program administration point of contact.
- Document all efforts to notify parents.
- Again, grantees are responsible for keeping a list of youth whose parents declined their participation in the survey and ensuring that surveys are only administered to youth whose parents have provided consent.

As in previous years, access to individual survey responses will be restricted to the Grantee Program Administrator and identified grantee program facilitators and staff that are DIRECTLY involved in survey administration, as well as the ODP SUPTRS BG Grant Projects Director and the TriWest evaluation team that are directly involved with survey outcome evaluation. Parents, non-grantee organization staff, and the public will NOT have access to participants’ responses. Individual participant surveys should never be shared with or discussed with anyone.

**Sample Active and Passive Parental Consent forms are included on pages 4 and 5 of this document. You can also download PDF and Word Document versions of the Sample Active and Passive Parental Consent Forms via the links below and on the ODP SUPTRS BG webpage at [prevention.odp.idaho.gov/provider-information](http://prevention.odp.idaho.gov/provider-information)**

- **Sample Passive Parental Consent Form**
  - [PDF](#) | [Word Document](#)
- **Sample Active Parental Consent Form**
  - [PDF](#) | [Word Document](#)

**Parental Consent Form for Youth Participant Survey**

Our goal at \_\_\_\_\_ is for every child to have a successful and enjoyable experience that helps to prepare them for the future. In particular, we wish to provide youth with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to resist the appeal and pressures to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

To help us understand how well we are meeting this goal, your child will be given an opportunity to answer some questions about their experience with our youth substance use prevention program.

The questions we wish to ask your child focus on the effectiveness of our program, not you as a parent. Therefore, we would like to ask your child to complete one retrospective survey that will help us determine if our program is meeting your child's needs and our goal to prevent youth substance use and misuse. The questions your child may be asked include questions about his or her interpersonal skills and satisfaction with the program, as well as questions pertaining to their knowledge, attitudes, and use of alcohol and drugs. All survey items have been validated to ensure age appropriateness and fit, regarding the purpose of the program.

All your child's answers to the survey questions will be completely **ANONYMOUS** and remain **CONFIDENTIAL**. The responses provided by your child will be combined with data from other students and reported in group form only. No personally identifiable information will be collected in the surveys and there will be no way to identify your child and his or her individual responses in the reports. The summary of responses will only be used to evaluate our program's effectiveness.

The surveys are attached for your review, if you have additional questions feel free to contact the program facilitator \_\_\_\_\_, the program facilitator at \_\_\_\_\_.

**If you DO NOT give permission for your child to participate in a survey to evaluate the impact of our substance abuse prevention program, please sign and return this form to your child's teacher/program facilitator by \_\_\_\_\_. If you are comfortable with your child participating in the survey, you do not need to return this form. You are, however, advised to keep this letter for your records.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	No, I DO NOT give my permission for my child to participate in the survey
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, I DO give my permission for my child to participate in the survey
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This survey is completely confidential. Your answers help us understand how to better support young people. Thank you for participating!

<b>Grade</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 6th <input type="checkbox"/> 7th <input type="checkbox"/> 8th <input type="checkbox"/> 9th	<b>Gender</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 10th <input type="checkbox"/> 11th <input type="checkbox"/> 12th <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer	<b>Race (check all that apply)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/ Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	<b>Ethnicity</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic/Latino
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**Instructions:** For each statement in Sections A-D, mark how you think you would have answered BEFORE the program and how you would answer NOW (after the program).

A	Statement (T = True, F = False)	Before the program		Now (after the program)	
1	Drinking alcohol can slow down your thinking and reaction time.	<input type="radio"/> T	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> T	<input type="radio"/> F
2	Marijuana/cannabis use can affect your memory and ability to learn.	<input type="radio"/> T	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> T	<input type="radio"/> F
3	Vaping or using e-cigarettes is safe because it doesn't contain tobacco.	<input type="radio"/> T	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> T	<input type="radio"/> F
4	You can become addicted to substances even if you only use them occasionally.	<input type="radio"/> T	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> T	<input type="radio"/> F

B	Statement	Before the program					Now (after the program)				
		Not at all confident		Very confident			Not at all confident		Very confident		
1	I would say "no" if someone offered me alcohol.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
2	I would say "no" if someone offered me an e-cigarette or vape pen.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
3	I would say "no" if someone offered me marijuana/cannabis.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
4	I would leave a situation where people were using drugs or alcohol.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
5	I would stick to my decision not to use substances even when friends pressure me.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
6	I can handle stress without using substances (like talking to someone I trust, exercising, or doing something I enjoy).	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

C	Statement	Before the program					Now (after the program)				
		Strongly Disagree		Strongly Agree			Strongly Disagree		Strongly Agree		
1	It's okay for someone my age to drink alcohol occasionally.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
2	It's okay for someone my age to vape or use e-cigarettes occasionally.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
3	It's okay for someone my age to use marijuana/cannabis occasionally.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
4	Using substances makes you look cool.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
5	I have decided to stay away from drugs.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
6	I have decided to avoid drinking alcohol until I'm 21.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
7	My parents/caregivers and I talk openly about important things in my life.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
8	Most of my friends think it is okay for people my age to use alcohol or drugs.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
9	I think about consequences before I make decisions.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
10	What we believe about ourselves affects the way we act or behave.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤

D	Answer each of the following questions based on the prompt:  How often would you _____?	Before the program					Now (after the program)				
		Never	Once or Twice	Monthly	Weekly	Daily	Never	Once or Twice	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
1	Have 1 or more alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, or hard liquor)?	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
2	Have 3 or more alcoholic beverages on a single occasion?	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
3	Use marijuana/cannabis in any form?	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
4	Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
5	Smoke cigarettes?	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
6	Use other tobacco products (smokeless tobacco [snuff, dip, chewing tobacco, or snus], cigars, or pipe tobacco)?	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
7	Use e-cigarettes (vape pens, JUUL, or other devices) to vape nicotine?	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
8	Use any other substance to get high?	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤