

**CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONCORD-CARLISLE
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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2007

Parents of Concord-Carlisle High School Students
Parents of Concord Middle School Students

Dear Parents:

The Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle High School are committed to assisting the young people entrusted to our care in making good life choices and in becoming thoughtful, informed, and responsible human beings. Our secondary schools offer age-appropriate programs which aid students in making sound decisions and developing positive lifelong behaviors. To help us understand the issues and questions that the larger culture poses to middle and high school students, staff members oversee the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey biennially. Developed through a partnership with Emerson Hospital, the survey generates data which inform program development and provide information for parents and the larger community.

Commencing in 1998, a survey has been administered to middle and high school adolescents in several local communities. Each town's responses have been compared to aggregate results from all taking the survey. In the spring of 2006, Concord Middle School and Concord-Carlisle High School students participated in this survey for the fourth time. Highlights of survey results for your child's school are attached.

The 2006 administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey yielded much food for thought and study. The system is currently reviewing policies and curriculum to address concerns identified in the survey. District schools are fortunate to have many local groups committed to ensuring the health and wellness of students and their families: The Community Youth Alliance, Concord Police, Center for Parents and Teachers, Concord-Carlisle Parent Initiative, Community Education, and the Recreation Department. All focus on reinforcing positive behaviors and eliminating or minimizing destructive ones. Individually and collectively these organizations have provided programs and training to students, parents, and community members. As a parent, you have a tremendous influence on the positive growth of your son or daughter. Educators look forward to continuing to work with you in fostering positive behaviors. We encourage you to talk with school staff and to become involved in community programs as we all work to assist young people in developing good judgment, confidence, and productive lifelong interests.

For additional information about the Emerson Youth Risk Behavior Survey and area programs focusing on the wellness and safety of our students, please contact Kathy Bowen, Health Education Coordinator, Concord Public Schools/Concord-Carlisle Regional School District at 978-341-2490, ext. 8132. We look forward to continuing to partner with you as we all focus on the health, well-being, and resiliency of the young people in our care.

Sincerely,

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Brenda Finn
Superintendent of Schools