PPRA Model Notice and Consent/Opt-Out for Specific Activities

[LEAs should adopt the following model form as appropriate]

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires [School District] to notify you to allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas (“protected information surveys”):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;

2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;

3. Sex behavior or attitudes;

4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;

5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;

6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;

7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent; or

8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Please note that parents are not required by PPRA to be notified about the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. Following is a survey activity requiring parental notice to opt-out for a survey taking place between March 1, 2020 and April 12, 2020. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.)

*Date:* March 1, 2020 to April 12, 2020

*Grades*: 6-12

*Activity*: Youth REACH MD Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Survey

*Summary*: Youth REACH MD is conducting Maryland’s fourth survey and census of youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness. This innovative survey and census will identify the number of unaccompanied youth and young adults ages 24 years or younger who are not living with a parent or guardian and who do not have a fixed, stable, permanent place to call home. State and local agencies, nonprofits and volunteers will work intensively during their identified survey period between March 1, 2020 and April 12, 2020 to connect with youth and young adults in 22 counties and Baltimore City through street counts, service counts, and other special “magnet” gatherings.

The count will take place in the following counties: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, St. Mary’s, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester. Local public and nonprofit agencies are collaborating to organize each region’s stakeholders, including youth, service providers and schools, to plan and carry out the surveys and counts.

Youth REACH MD (REACH stands for Reach out, Engage, Assist and Count to end Homelessness) represents the work of a coalition of state and local public officials and agencies, nonprofits and volunteers to identify the real needs of a vulnerable but difficult to reach population. The effort was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 2014 (Chapter 425 of House Bill 794). The Institute for Innovation & Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work (the Institute) is coordinating Youth REACH activities with funding support from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the State’s lead agency overseeing the project.

As part of these activities, Youth REACH MD is administering a survey in the school districts located in the counties listed above. This is an anonymous and voluntary survey that asks unaccompanied homeless students questions about their housing status, whether they accessed mental health and substance abuse treatment services, sexual orientation, reasons for housing instability, and sources of income. The survey also asks questions of a demographic nature concerning family make-up and the relationship between parents and children. To view the Youth REACH MD survey in full, please visit [www.youthreachmd.org](http://www.youthreachmd.org)

*Opt-out* A parent must sign and return this opt-out form no later than [RETURN DATE] [OR] Contact [school official] at [telephone number, email, address, etc.] no later than [RETURN DATE] if you do not want your child to take the Youth REACH MD Survey occurring between March 1, 2020 and April 12, 2020.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, wish to opt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of taking the

[parent’s/guardian’s name] [child’s name]

Youth REACH MD survey administered between March 1, 2020 and April 12, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s signature