

## Surveys – the Purpose and the Problem

As parents become increasingly aware – and concerned – about what their children are being taught in America’s schools, another issue has popped up as well: surveys. Students have taken surveys for decades, but recently they have become more intrusive, often asking probing questions about sex, sexual orientation, drug use, suicide and more. Of course the companies, and the government, are also collecting data. But why?

One such survey made the news two years ago in Ohio, when this journalist reported (*report here: <https://theohiostar.com/2019/10/04/youth-risk-behavior-survey-administered-to-delaware-county-students-as-young-as-sixth-grade-asks-sexual-orientation-gender-identity-suicide-questions>*) the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was being administered in Delaware County schools to sixth graders. The CDC started surveying students in 1991 to gather information on school children. It’s now administered by the county health district. The purpose is to inform the county’s Community Health Improvement Plan. The plan drives the funding of programs.

In 2019 the Delaware County survey changed. A sample of questions given to middle school students for the first time that year include: “Which of the following best describes your sexual identity?” and “What is your gender?” which includes the answers of female, male, transgender and prefer not to disclose.

The YRBS is not the only survey our students are taking and it’s not just happening in Ohio. In 2014 the Momma Bears Blog exposed (*View info here: <http://www.mommabears.org/blog/archives/01-2014>*) surveys used by the Tennessee schools for 5<sup>th</sup> graders as part of a grant from the US DOE to “support district and school measurement of, and targeted programmatic interventions to improve, conditions for learning.” Like the YRBS, this survey asked 10-year-olds questions like, “Have you ever been bullied for being nonsexual?”

Alice Nicks, a licensed clinical counselor in Ohio who has witnessed a serious uptick in the need for mental health services for children, said, “These surveys are mental health assessments. They are the same kinds of questions professional counselors would ask at an intake interview for new clients. The people administering these so-called surveys are not qualified to give them. And under no circumstance should a school district – administrator, teacher or contractor – be permitted to administer these invasive surveys without preapproval from parents who have been shown the material in advance.”

Concerns from professionals have not yet stopped the survey onslaught. In October 2021 *National Review* outed (*found here: <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/parents-group-sounds-alarm-over-ag-garlands-ties-to-pro-crt-zuckerberg-backed-consultancy/>*) Panorama Education, a business co-founded by the son-in-law of current Biden Attorney General Merrick Garland. At the same time Garland was directing the FBI to investigate

concerned parents as potential domestic terrorists, his son-in-law's company was using taxpayer dollars to push critical race theory and social justice as well as surveys that "collect(s) social and emotional data from students in grades K to 12." One of the parents with the courage to speak out against Garland's outrageous actions, Asra Nomani, noted PanoramaEd, "...will profit from Garland's outrageous silencing of parents who are challenging its data mining of K-12 students."

There is an additional concern that these surveys act to condition students to answer invasive and inappropriate questions from strangers, essentially grooming children to feel comfortable providing private details about their lives to people they do not know. It strips them of their natural protective instincts and makes it easier for predators to take advantage. Rather than weakening our children's natural defenses, parents and schools should be reinforcing our students' understanding of what is private and personal information.

Bottom line, all these surveys and data collection have a common goal – making money off our children.