

January 23, 2013

Dear Principal,

The Superintendent's letter dated November 5, 2013 (enclosed), announced the collection of data for the Virginia *School Health Profile* survey. Since the 1990's, the *School Health Profile* has been conducted as part of the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) cooperative agreement with the Division of Adolescent and School Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Beginning in 2014, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) will be conducting the survey in collaboration with health experts from Virginia Tech. Approximately 500 schools have been selected to receive the survey this year. The data will be collected and presented to help improve school health policies and programs.

Enclosed are two questionnaire booklets: one for you, the principal, to complete; and one for the lead health education teacher. This teacher may be the health education department chair, the most senior health education teacher, or your only health education teacher. If your school does not have an identified lead health teacher, it is appropriate for the Health, Physical Education, and Family Life teachers to complete the survey as a department.

Your response to this survey is very important. The results from this survey are critical for designing and administering programs to meet the needs of students and to provide a basis for future requests for funding. Completed questionnaire booklets from both you and your lead health education teacher will help provide a more accurate portrayal of health education in Virginia public schools.

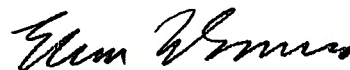
For more information on the *Profiles*, please visit the VDH website <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OFHS/policy/schoolhealth/> or the CDC website <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/profiles/>

Please return the completed questionnaire booklets in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. Please do not fold the questionnaire booklet. If you have any questions, please call Dr. Elena Serrano at Virginia Tech at 540-231-3464 or serrano@vt.edu or Danielle Henderson at VDH at 804-864-7649 or Danielle.Henderson@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Dev Nair, PhD, MPH
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