

Appendix D  
Letter to Parents

May 20, 2002

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Students in science classrooms at your teen's high school participated in an anonymous survey designed by educational researchers at Virginia Tech. Your son or daughter received this note after participating in the survey.

The primary investigators for the study are Professor Kusum Singh and Sandra Dika. The survey, "School Relationships and Experiences Survey," includes items on school factors; social networks; personal learning factors such as interest, attitude, effort, motivation, and aspirations; and science learning and achievement.

Superintendent Sharon Dodson granted permission to the researchers to enter the school. However, students were advised that their participation in the study was voluntary. Classroom teachers administered the survey during class time. Students were not required to reveal any information which would identify them or their families.

The information from this study will provide general information on factors that affect student learning as well as specific information about science teaching and learning. We sincerely thank the students and teachers at the school for their time and effort.

Sincerely,

Sandra Dika  
Research Assistant  
Virginia Tech