What you need to know:
Surveys and Student Data Collection

What surveys are schools asking students to complete?

Recently, student surveys have been conducted as part of district equity or social-emotional learning initiatives. Often, students are asked personal questions about their preferred name and pronouns, and whether those can be used with parents. Kids have also been asked if they feel accepted based on their race or gender identity. Sometimes, students are also asked about their parents' political leanings and religious practices.

What's the issue?

There are many issues at play here. First, parents are not always notified about the surveys or have access to the their contents. Second, websites and apps used in the classroom may expose student data to third parties: A recent study, reported in The 74, found that "96% of apps used regularly in schools have data-sharing practices that 'are not adequately safe for children.'" Further, surveys take time away from classroom time that could be spent learning reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Finally, these surveys sometimes include questions steeped in race and gender ideology.

When they say...	You can say...
Surveys help schools know how best to serve their children.	Students do bring a wide range of needs when they enter school. But the purpose of a school is to educate children. Parents should know and have access to the questions schools are asking kids. They should also be able to opt their kids out of surveys that include sensitive questions they disagree with, such as asking a student about his or her gender identity.
You don't want schools to support families? Schools can't support families when they don't know their needs.	Students go to school to learn. It's not the school's place to ask students sensitive personal questions without parental consent. Schools should bring families into the conversation and work with them, not against them, to ensure that a child's needs are met and that they are receiving the best possible education.
The student data privacy concerns are overhyped. So much information is already available online. What's the big deal?	Schools have increasingly fallen victim to hackers. In the past, hackers have demanded massive ransom payments for student data. Unfortunately, the amount of data schools collect on students make them a prime target for hackers. As the 74 million reported: "At worst, in the wrong hands, [data collection] can lead to emotional trauma, aberrant seduction or even physical danger with location information."

Check Parents Defending Education's Indoctrination Map for examples from your state.