

Natick Middle School Survey Asks 11-Year-Olds About Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation By Tom Joyce • 11 Nov 2025 [Source: NewBostonPost](#)

A Natick middle school survey asked students as young as 11 about gender identity, sexual orientation, and sexual behavior, drawing public concern.

A survey given to middle school students in Natick is drawing backlash for asking children as young as 11 years old personal questions about their sexual preferences and if they identify as something other than male or female.

The MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey, administered this month to students in grades 6 through 8, includes questions asking children whether they are transgender, non-binary, or “gender-queer.” It also asks students to describe their sexual orientation and whether they identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

Natick Public Schools sent a message to parents saying the survey helps the district “better understand students’ health needs.”

The email message said the data “is used to improve health education programs, strengthen student support services, and enhance the school climate.” It also told parents they could opt out.

“The survey provides valuable insights into students’ health and safety,” principal Josepha Blocker wrote. “Protecting your child’s privacy is important. The survey is anonymous, meaning your child will not be asked to provide their name, and no one will know how they respond.”

However, critics say questions about sexuality and gender have no place in a public-school questionnaire aimed at 11- to 13-year-olds.

“There is no reason a child should ever be asked about their sexuality or gender identity at school — especially not by an outside group using a survey,” Jessica Richardson, director of research and engagement at the Massachusetts Family Institute, told NewBostonPost via email. “These inappropriate and confusing questions can push children to question their identity and produce misleading results.”

“For example, based on the phrasing of the ‘Are you transgender?’ question, a boy who enjoys traditionally feminine activities and doesn’t feel very masculine might check a box indicating that he identifies as transgender,”

she added. "Such false data can then be used to advance gender ideology in schools and the community. Parents should opt their children out of this and any other survey that pries into personal matters that have no business in the classroom."

Pam Ahern, founder of Parental Rights Natick, said the survey has alarmed some families.

"Several concerned parents with children in Natick Public Schools reached out to Parental Rights Natick about this health survey," she told NewBostonPost via email. "One dad in particular described it as a 'third-party survey being administered to minors,' promoting to students as young as 11 years old ideas about sexual behaviors, diverse sexualities, and fluid gender identities."

Here are questions from the survey:

"What is your sex?" (*Options include: Male, Female, I describe my sex in another way, I prefer not to say.*)

"Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?" (*Options: Yes, No, I am not sure, I don't know what this question is asking.*)

"Which of the following best describes you?" (*Options include: Heterosexual (straight), Gay or lesbian, Bisexual, Something else, Not sure, I don't know what this question is asking.*)

"Which of the following best describes you?" (*Options include: Male, Female, Non-binary, Genderqueer, Another gender identity, Not sure.*)

"During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact?" (*Options include Male, Female, Both, I have never had sexual contact.*)

Natick is a town with more than [36,000 residents](#), roughly 20 miles west of Boston in Middlesex County. Wilson Middle School serves more than 720 students in grades 6 through 8, [according to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#).

Natick Public Schools superintendent Melissa Spash could not be reached for comment this past weekend.
