Families have a lot of demands on their time, so although SurveyWorks takes just 20 minutes or so, it is another item on their ever-growing to-do lists. While students take the survey during the school day, parents and guardians have to build time into their schedules, which isn’t always an easy thing to do.

RIDE is focused on driving up family participation, and we’re here to help and support you as you engage families and help them understand why SurveyWorks is so important.

To that end, we have found that hearing directly from another parent – someone who understands the scheduling challenges that busy families face – can be a great way to build buy-in and encourage families to participate. We encourage you to reach out to your school’s PTA or PTO leadership to ask if they will consider sending a letter home to families about SurveyWorks. Draft language is included below, but we invite you to make it your own, or empower the parent leaders in your schools to do the same.

**Sample Letter:**

Dear Family,

My name is **[NAME]** and I am a parent here at **[SCHOOL]**.

Like you, my schedule fills up quickly. There aren’t enough hours in the day for everything I would like to get done, and I know my child often feels the same way, given the many demands on our time. As much as I would like to spend more time at the school, it is not always possible.

But our perspective is so important. School leaders need to hear from us, and our voices need to be represented at the table when decisions are being made that impact our kids.

That’s why I’m asking you to please take just 20 minutes of your time to complete SurveyWorks, Rhode Island’s school culture and climate survey. The survey is completely anonymous, but the results can make a huge difference for our school.

The survey window runs from January 18 through March 31, and here at **[SCHOOL]**, we are encouraged to fill our surveys out from **[LOCAL SURVEY WINDOW]**. You can access the survey at [**bit.ly/ridefamily**](http://bit.ly/ridefamily) . Choose your school from the dropdown menu.

SurveyWorks asks important questions like how much your child enjoys school, whether or not teachers treat students with respect, and how much the school values diversity. This is information that your school may not get otherwise, so don’t miss this opportunity to have your voice heard.

Join me in filling out SurveyWorks, and be a partner in your child’s education.

Thank you for your support, and if you have any questions, please reach out to our SurveyWorks Site Coordinator, **[COORDINATOR]**.