



Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing to you today to draw your attention to a very important event that will impact our school, community, and country for the next decade, and is taking place right now nationwide: the United States' census.

Every ten years, everyone living in the United States – regardless of immigration status – is counted in the census. The count is used to distribute power at every level of government and distribute more than \$675 billion each year to communities across the nation. Participating in the census is a civic duty – much like voting – and is confidential and simple to complete.

**The census is important.** From school boards to the U.S. House of Representatives, the census is used to distribute power – and resources – to the people. The 2020 Census will determine how much federal funding our community receives for education, healthcare, housing, transportation, emergency services, and more. Every person counted in the census means more money for programs that support Wawasee Community Schools, our students, and you – their families. In our community, the census impacts funding for Title 1, free and reduced school lunches, and school special education. The census supports all children, helping them meet challenging state academic standards and have a well-rounded education.

**The census is safe.** By federal law, individual responses to the census are confidential for 72 years and cannot be shared with anyone, including law enforcement, immigration, tax agencies, or even the President of the United States. Your information is private and cannot be used against you.

**The census is easy.** Completing the census for your household should only take about ten minutes and is simpler than ever to do. Your household should have received a form by mail earlier this year, but if you've misplaced it don't worry! You can still respond by calling English version: (844) 330-2020/Spanish version: (844) 468-2020 or online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov).

**The census's deadline is approaching.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline to respond to the 2020 Census was extended earlier this year until September 30, 2020. The date your household will reference when completing your census is April 1, 2020. Make sure you count everyone who was residing in your household on this date, including roommates, extended family, friends, and – of course – children!

Please help support our school and community by completing your 2020 Census today. Whoever you are, wherever you're from, YOU COUNT!

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Edington

Superintendent WCSC