



TEACHERS: Please share this information with all of your middle school students

If every ten years, you calculated what savings you had in the piggy bank, or in the real bank, you would like to count every dollar, right? That is why it is important to be sure you **get counted** with your entire family in the once-a-decade Census starting next week (mid-March until mid-April).

Please ask your grandparents, uncles, aunts, and neighbors to fill out their Census form and send it back in. Your help is important!

Here are four reasons why your family should return the ten question form today:

1. You are important
2. Your brothers, sisters, Mom and Dad count
3. You need representation in Congress (the number of members in the U.S. House of Representatives for Michigan in Washington is determined by how many people are counted)
4. Your parent's taxes will stay stable with more people being counted. (For every person counted, your community gets \$50 per year from the State of Michigan, the sales tax state shared revenue program)

The Census forms will only take ten minutes to complete. They will arrive in mid-March. Ask everyone to make a point of getting them back the same week.

The ten questions are pretty easy to answer:

1. How many people live in your home
2. How many people are temporarily living in your home
3. Is your home a house or apartment
4. Telephone number
5. Names of all your family members
6. Sex of persons
7. Ages and dates of birth
8. Origin of person's background (Asian, Hispanic, African American, Caucasian, etc.)
9. Race
10. Where else do the temporary occupants in your house live

If people do not fill out and mail in their Census form, Census workers will go to their home to get the Census information.

Some things to tell your parent(s) about the census:

1. The Census form *CANNOT* be done online
2. The Census cannot be done over the phone
3. No one should give out their social security number or any bank numbers (the Census does **not** require this information)
4. The best advice you can give your parents, relatives, and neighbors is to fill out the survey form and mail it back within a week
5. Unfortunately, there are people who will try to get information illegally, saying it is for official Census collection
6. After your parents, relatives and neighbors send back their Census form, no Census worker will contact them. If anyone does contact them, your family member should request official identification before discussing anything

To find out how your community is doing on the return rate, go to:

**<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map>
then go to Michigan and then to Ottawa County**