

Principals

Throughout Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) provides many benefits to school districts. As a no-cost solution to gathering information on student needs, the PAYS provides information critical to formulating plans administratively—increasing dollars entering school districts in the Commonwealth. Also, PAYS data is anonymous, confidential and aggregated to show group level responses. Data helps school districts and communities to see a clear, data-driven picture of the supports and strengths in a locale as well as to identify the needs of youth for further support.

It PAYS to Ask

- How often are students experiencing some form of bullying?
- How often are students exposed either to violence or threat of violence?
- What is the prevalence rate of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use (ATOD) for area youth?
- How do perceived risks, social beliefs and peer pressure affect the use of drugs among youth?
- What percentage of students in your school are struggling with depression?
- What risk and protective factors are most prevalent in your school community?

It PAYS to Know

- Results can help create a holistic approach to address student needs.
- Shows that what your school is doing is the “right” thing.
- Results inform SAP targeted interventions and school guidance lessons.
- Results provide information your school can use for grants, funding and discussions about leveraging financial support.
- Provides a connection to community-level programs and support—helping you to select needed programs for the youth you serve.
- Gives students a voice on what’s occurring in their schools, their community environment and family life.
- Results can identify the needs/resources to target parent/youth engagement.
- Develop more strategies to keep school safety a priority.
- PAYS data can inform your school safety plan.