

In the fall of 2013, students across Pennsylvania will celebrate an opportunity to make their voices heard. This opportunity is called the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS). What you have to say, what you think, what you feel---and your HONEST opinions matter to people who support young people across Pennsylvania and in your own community! Here's more information about what you'll be asked and how your answers benefit young Pennsylvanians.

Remember....what you say on the PAYS is never linked to your name. The survey is ANONYMOUS and CONFIDENTIAL---top secret! By taking the survey honestly you can help make Pennsylvania a better place to live for youth today and tomorrow.

It PAYS to Ask

- About real-life issues like....violence, problems you have, ways you deal with problems
- About drugs, alcohol, and if you, your friends, or others around you are using or supporting drug, alcohol, and tobacco use
- About how you feel about life....these are questions about hope for today and the future
- About the support you receive and what your community, school, or family is doing RIGHT to support young people
- About things people do around you that cause harm or are risks to your success
- About what you value and what is important to you

It PAYS to Know

- How many people REALLY drink, use tobacco, or use alcohol....usually it really is not as many as you might assume
- What other young people say. The PAYS helps you to "paint a clear picture" of your school, peers, and communities
- What other young people say about how adults support you--- let adults know what you and your peers / friends think without anyone knowing who you are
- Do you and your peers feel safe, do you have hope? Adults need to know how well we are doing for YOU!!
- What can you as a member of your school and community make a difference....what can you add to make the difference?

Take the PAYS, Make a Difference, Have a VOICE!! Look at the PAYS report when it returns to your school this spring and visit www.myvoicepa.org to help re-shape the norm.