

# The Pennsylvania Youth Survey: 2021 Timeline and Fact Sheet

Date	Action
April 2021	Survey questions available by request (please visit <a href="https://epis.psu.edu/paysquestion">https://epis.psu.edu/paysquestion</a> ) Superintendents receive notice of Fall 2021 PAYS administration Online registration available at <a href="http://www.pays.pa.gov">www.pays.pa.gov</a> then click “2021” or use the link emailed directly from Bach Harrison
May/July 2021	Bach Harrison outreach to schools included in state sample
Summer 2021	Recruitment outreach to schools from community, prevention, & education supporters of PAYS
September 7 to November 19, 2021	PAYS administered in participating schools
December 23, 2021	Survey Return Deadline
April 30, 2022	PAYS Reports released to schools and counties

## Facts about the PAYS

- A biennial survey of youth in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades administered in the fall of odd-numbered years since 1989.
- No cost for any Pennsylvania school district or private/charter/parochial/cyber school that wishes to participate!
- Collects information on mental health and youth attitudes and behaviors towards Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) use and other problem behaviors.
  - What our youth think and believe about anti-social behaviors.
  - What our youth think about their school environment.
- Data from the survey is an essential component of successful grant-writing and can be used to leverage resources to help meet identified needs.
  - Provides prevention partnership opportunities to produce healthy youth development.
- Questions are asked in four domains—Community, School, Family, and Peer/Individual
  - Allows schools and communities to see what is happening in all aspects of their youths’ lives.
  - Provides a holistic view of the students’ environment including their communities, schools, families, and peers.
  - Helps to identify factors that can prevent a child from being ready to learn when they arrive to school each day.
- Surveys are anonymous and confidential—no individual student information can be obtained from the data set.
- In 2019, over 280,000 students across 1,144 schools in school districts and non-traditional schools took part in the PAYS. County reports are available for 57 counties (every one that had a minimum of two participating districts). District reports are provided directly to school district superintendents or points of contact.

For more information, visit [www.pays.pa.gov](http://www.pays.pa.gov), or contact Geoffrey Kolchin, PAYS Project Leader, PCCD at (717) 265-8483, [gkolchin@pa.gov](mailto:gkolchin@pa.gov).