



Pennsylvania Youth Survey: 4th Grade PAYS Survey Pilot
Passive Parental/Caregiver Permission Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our school is taking part in a small pilot study called the 2023 4th Grade Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. **The survey has been specially designed for 4th graders in terms of survey length, content, and question wording.** The survey will ask questions about the behaviors and perceptions of students in the 4th grade on topics such as school climate, bullying, and mental health. The survey will take about 25-30 minutes to complete.

The information we receive will assist us and our community partners in working to promote mental health, a positive school climate and healthy youth development. We want to ensure that all parents and caregivers are notified that the survey is being conducted and provide you with as much information about the survey as possible. As a parent or caregiver, you have the right to prohibit your child's participation. The following facts about the survey will help you make an informed decision about your child's participation:

- Participation in this survey is completely voluntary. Students will be instructed by their proctor that they can opt out of the survey entirely and that they can skip any questions they do not understand or choose not to answer. If they have any questions or concerns after taking this survey, they are instructed to talk with their school counselor or a trusted adult.
- The survey is designed to protect each student's privacy. It is anonymous and confidential. Students will not put their names on the survey, and no student will ever have their individual responses reported.
- This is a Year-Two-pilot of the survey (involving only about 40 school districts and 15,000 students), with the first administration of the survey occurring in fall 2021. The information collected is valuable, as it will allow prevention planners in selecting programming to promote healthy youth development.
- The survey will be read aloud to students as they follow along.

You can request a list of the survey questions by visiting this link: <http://www.pays.pa.gov/>. For more information about the survey, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions, please visit www.pays.pa.gov then click on "2023."

The survey will be administered during the school day later this fall and will take about 25-30 minutes to complete. If you do not want your child to participate, please submit your request to [INSERT NAME] in writing.

Thank you for your help in our efforts to keep our students healthy and schools safe for learning. If you have any questions, please contact [INSERT NAME] at [INSERT PHONE NUMBER].