

Education Professionals

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) provides many benefits to education professionals at all levels including: superintendents, principals, school health and mental health teams, student assistance professional teams, school boards, and teachers. The PAYS is administered in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The data is anonymous, confidential, and aggregated to show group-level responses. The PAYS can provide schools and communities with a clear, data-driven picture of their strengths and a better understanding of the needs of their students. Results will be sent directly to superintendents and are not shared with the general public.

It PAYS to Ask

- How often do students feel they have experienced some form of bullying?
- How often do students feel they have been exposed to violence an/or the threat of violence?
- What are the prevalence rates of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATODs) as reported by your students?
- How do perceived risks, social beliefs, and peer pressure affect behaviors among students?
- What percentage of students report struggling with depressive symptoms?
- Do students feel a connection to their schools, families, communities, and peers?

It PAYS to Know

Assess Student Needs and School Climate

- Learn more about multiple factors contributing to school climate including: truancy, health, conflict, violence, bullying/cyberbullying, and other areas for student assistance
- Give students a voice on what they feel is occurring in their schools, communities, and among their peers
- Identify grade-level needs to select interventions based on data
- Include robust data to School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (SWPBIS) planning and address student, student assistance professional teams, and school-wide needs

Resource Allocation and Accountability

- Provide a competitive edge to your school when applying for grants and leveraging other financial support
- Assure that programs and interventions in health, wellness, and social emotional learning supports align to data-identified needs to Maxine the potential of budgetary allocations
- Show the community and families that your school is doing the “right” thing by highlighting the protective factors identified by youth

Student Support Planning

- Foster data-driven program selection and implementation when faced with limited time in school schedules
- Information targeted interventions and counseling programs to prioritize problem behaviors and trends
- Identify strategies for student and family engagement
- Inform your school safety plan with bi-annual and trend data

For more information contact Geoff Kolchin, PAYS Project Leader at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, at gkolchin@pa.gov or (717) 265-8483. To ask questions online, visit: <http://ow.ly/Kg5h3>