

Student Assistance Program Teams & Liaisons

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is a great way to gain insight on what is happening in all areas of the lives of students. It identifies specific risk and protective factors across four areas (“domains”) that impact students’ behaviors. The PAYS survey is anonymous and confidential. Data from the survey is aggregated to show grade level responses and includes school district specific results, in addition to county and statewide reports.

Student Assistance Teams are key stakeholders within schools that can help address the findings of the PAYS. Data can be used to better identify common barriers to learning and school success as well as assist in the planning and coordinating of supports both in school and in coordination with out of school providers.

It PAYS to Ask

PAYS data can be used to help you find the answers to these questions.

- What is the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use (ATOD) by youth in the school?
- What are the strengths of the students and school?
- Do the students feel safe and have a significant adult with whom to connect?
- What are the risk and protective factors youth in the school experience?
- How often are students experiencing some form of bullying?
- How often are students exposed either to violence or threat of violence?
- What percentages of students in the school are struggling with depression or other stressors?
- Do youth feel connections between their schools, families, and communities?

It PAYS to Know

PAYS results can be used to:

- Show if in-school programs are targeted to the right populations and issues/concerns.
- Help identify the needs for grade level/age interventions.
- Provide assistance with developing interventions and supports that can be provided by SAP teams and SAP liaisons through identifying and prioritizing problem behaviors and trends.
- Assess student needs (i.e. by the School-Wide Positive Behavior and Instructional Support (SWPBS) planning teams)