

Superintendents

It PAYS to Ask, it PAYS to Know

Throughout Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) provides many benefits to school districts. As a no-cost solution to gathering information on student needs, the PAYS provides information critical to formulating plans administratively—increasing dollars entering school districts in the Commonwealth. Also, PAYS data is anonymous, confidential and aggregated to show group level responses. Data helps school districts and communities to see a clear, data-driven picture of the supports and strengths in a locale as well as to identify the needs of youth for further support.

It PAYS to Ask

- How often are students experiencing some form of bullying?
- How often are students exposed either to violence or threat of violence?
- What is the prevalence rate of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use (ATOD) for area youth?
- How do perceived risks, social beliefs and peer pressure affect the use of drugs among youth?
- What percentage of students in your school are struggling with depression?
- What risk and protective factors are most prevalent in your school community?

It PAYS to Know

- Results include information on multiple factors contributing to school climate: truancy, health areas, conflict and violence, bullying and cyber-bullying, and other areas for student assistance.
- Results include PROTECTIVE FACTORS that highlight school and community strengths.
- Gives students a voice on what's occurring in schools, their community environment and family life.
- Informs program planning based on risk factors—making the case for evidence-based prevention programs.
- Implementing evidence-based prevention programs positively affects academic achievement.
- Provides a COMMUNITY LEVEL picture of youth needs and assets.
- Increases potential for funding opportunities and provides a competitive edge in funding applications.
- Provides ongoing tracking of positive school environment.
- Builds consensus and informs decision making.
- Fosters data-driven program decisions in limited available school time.