



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

April 15, 2015

Dear Superintendents and Administrators:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are pleased to announce this fall's upcoming administration of the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS). PAYS is a survey of youth in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades that assesses their behaviors, attitudes, and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, violence and other problem behaviors. As was the case in 2013, the 2015 PAYS will be provided to all Pennsylvania schools **AT NO COST** through the combined financial contribution of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). This includes the cost of surveying all students in the eligible grades (either online or paper/pencil) and Local Summary Reports at both the school district and county level.

PAYS focuses on a multi-domain risk and protective factor framework, helping stakeholders understand the underlying reasons youth do or do not engage in problem behaviors. While PAYS is administered in the schools, the information garnered through PAYS is holistic and is representative of the students' environment including their communities, schools, families, and peers. As in past years, the survey is voluntary, and student responses will remain anonymous and confidential. PAYS will again comply with the Penn State Institutional Review Board (IRB) process to ensure the students' privacy.

Based on their responsiveness to the needs of Pennsylvania's schools, we have renewed our contract with Bach Harrison to serve as the survey administrator. We are again committed to the timely delivery of the local PAYS results no later than April 30, 2016, and have worked through our PAYS Advisory Group to make the survey more useful for the planning needs of Pennsylvania's schools and prevention partners. PCCD will provide you with logistical support and proctoring information to ensure a smooth facilitation of the survey.

We look forward to a successful and timely administration of the 2015 PAYS. Included with this letter is a form for you to register to participate in PAYS this fall; please complete this form and send it to Bach Harrison to indicate your interest. Additionally, in past administrations of PAYS, many school districts have worked closely with local community prevention collaboratives, SAP Teams, and county drug and alcohol agencies. We would encourage you to continue to do so in 2015. For further information on PAYS, please visit www.pays.state.pa.us, then click on "2015" or contact Geoff Kolchin, PAYS Project Leader at PCCD at gkolchin@pa.gov or 717.265.8483.

In partnership,

Pedro Rivera
Acting Secretary
PA Department of Education

Gary Tennis
Acting Secretary
PA Department of Drug and
Alcohol Programs

Linda Rosenberg
Executive Director
PA Commission on
Crime and Delinquency

2015 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) Agreement Form

The _____ School District/Charter School/Private School agrees to participate in the 2015 Pennsylvania Youth Survey Project, which is being offered **AT NO COST** to my district/school this year.

School District/Charter School/Private School Survey Coordinator Information:

Please note that the person you designate here will be our primary survey planning contact throughout the life of this project. This person can be a school official or you can partner with local stakeholder, such as a Communities That Care (CTC) site or your Single County Authority (SCA), to coordinate the logistics of administration.

Survey Coordinator Name: _____

Title: _____

Address, City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please designate the level of 2015 PAYS participation you prefer for your district/school.

(NOTE: There are no costs for any of these levels of surveying.)

I would like to survey ALL 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in my district/school.

I would like to survey ALL 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in the following schools ONLY:

Other (please specify): _____

Please select the method of surveying you would prefer for your district/school.

Standard Paper/Pencil Surveying

Online Surveying (If chosen, the administration of the survey must be set up through your district's IT Department.)

I would prefer that my designated Survey Coordinator make this decision as he/she sees fit.

Questions regarding 2015 PAYS Reporting:

- 1) Typically, district/school reports are simply named with the name of your district or school. If you would like to specify an alternate name for your data summary report, please provide your preferred report name below.

- 2) When district/school reports are released, they will automatically be emailed and mailed to the Superintendent or Lead Administrator. Are there any other individuals in your district, school(s), or community in which Bach Harrison should also automatically share your data? If so, please name individuals who are allowed access to your electronic copy of the district/school report below (use the back of this form if you need more room). Please provide email addresses also if at all possible.



Superintendent/Lead Administrator Signature

Date

*Return using the attached SASE or to: Mary Johnstun, 2015 PAYS Project Director, Bach Harrison, LLC,
116 South 500 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84102, Fax (toll-free): 1-888-715-7639*