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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

June 1, 2023

() Action Required
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 037-23 Student Engagement and Support

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2023 Healthy Youth Survey Administration

CONTACT: Doua Kha, Student Behavior and Support Program Supervisor
608-320-9140, doua.kha@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Healthy Youth Survey (HYS), Washington's only regularly occurring statewide student perception survey, is an instrument for the state, as well as for individual schools, to provide better data-informed supports for students and families. The HYS, in operation since 2002, is a collaborative effort of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Health Care Authority – Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB).

Student participation in the HYS is voluntary and anonymous, and the data provides insight into a variety of health-related behaviors among Washington's youth, including mental health, physical health, tobacco and marijuana use, and engagement in school, among others. At the state level, these data inform legislative priorities, policymaking, and resource allocation. Similarly, at the local level, these data inform policymaking and resource allocation.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- The 18th administration of HYS will be during **Fall 2023**.
- The HYS will be administered in-person as an electronic survey. Schools who are unable to administer the survey in-person (i.e., Alternative Learning Experiences primarily engaged in remote or online learning) will be allowed to administer the survey remotely.
- Student participation in the HYS is *voluntary and anonymous*.

- There will be a communications toolkit distributed later in the summer containing valuable strategies and resources for districts and schools to combat misinformation in response to the HYS as some communities have seen in previous years. The best way to combat misinformation is to get ahead of it.
- Parents/guardians and students must be notified about the survey with the approved survey notification flyer and methods (mail the Information Letter to families; send the Information Letter with students to share with families; email, make robocalls, or use the Skyward system to notify parents/guardians about the survey using the required language and attach a copy of the Information Letter to emails or Skyward) at least two weeks before the survey is administered.
- To protect the anonymity of individual students, there are some restrictions for what is contained in school-level reports.
- Starting this year, two questions about sexual orientation and gender identity will be included on the survey for grades 8–12. Prior to this administration these questions were optional. Like all other questions on the survey, students are not required to answer these questions. Schools will continue to be able to request an exemption to asking from asking students questions about sexual abuse and/or sexual behavior by emailing the Washington State Department of Health at Healthy.Youth@doh.wa.gov.
- For additional information about the HYS, please visit [AskHYS.net](https://www.wa.gov/askhys).

2023 HYS REGISTRATION

To register your school(s) for the HYS, log into [AskHYS.net](https://www.wa.gov/askhys) and click on HYS 2023. If you need an AskHYS login, contact your district data security manager to add AskHYS to your OSPI EDS permissions. Registration deadline is June 30th, with late registrations considered on a case-by-case basis through September 30th.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Doua Kha, Student Behavior and Support Program Supervisor, at 608-320-9140 or email doua.kha@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631. This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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Deputy Superintendent

Anna Marie Dufault
Assistant Superintendent
Student Engagement & Support

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Dixie Grunenfelder

Executive Director

K-12 Supports

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