



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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April 13, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Invitation to Learn about and Register for Healthy Youth Survey 2023

In accordance with the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989 and Chapter 43.376 RCW, we invite tribal schools to participate in the Healthy Youth Survey 2023.

Purpose

The Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) is a collaborative research study among the Health Care Authority, Department of Health, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Liquor and Cannabis Board. It focuses on health risk behaviors, such as violence and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use that can result in injury and impact positive development among youth. The survey also includes questions about risk and protective factors, which are attitudes and opinions that research has shown to be correlated with these health risk behaviors. Administered in Fall 2023, the HYS contains questions related to topics including:

- Student demographic information (e.g., age, grade level, race/ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation)
- Unintentional and intentional injury (e.g., suicide, fighting, and weapon carrying)
- Physical activity and dietary behaviors (e.g., fruit and vegetable consumption)
- Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use
- Related risk and protective factors (including community, school, and peer-individual factors)
- Access to school-based services
- Sexual behavior and sexual abuse (schools will be able to request an exemption from asking questions on either or both topics in 2023)

Usually only 1-2 Tribal Schools participate each year in the survey. However, if enough tribal schools participate, a specific Tribal Schools report can be produced. Surveys are anonymous and participation is voluntary. We report survey findings in aggregate and we do not anticipate that participation in the survey would incur risk to individual American Indian/Alaska Native students. Schools and communities, including Tribal communities, use survey results for strategic planning, grant writing, and to learn more about their youth.

A copy of the HYS Registration Invitation for Superintendents and Principals is attached at the end of this letter for your convenience.



Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Department of Health
Health Care Authority
Liquor and Cannabis Board

[Insert Date]

TO: School District Superintendents and Building Principals

RE: Healthy Youth Survey 2023

Thank you for considering participating in the Washington Healthy Youth Survey (HYS), which will be administered in the fall of 2023. You are invited to register your school or district if you serve grades 6, 8, 10, or 12. Participation is free.

Important details about the HYS:

- The HYS will be administered during **Fall 2023**.
- HYS 2023 will be administered in-person as an electronic survey. Schools who are unable to administer the survey in-person (e.g., Alternative Learning Experiences, online learning, virtual, etc.) will be allowed to administer the survey remotely.
- Student participation in the HYS is *voluntary and anonymous*.
- Parents and students must be notified about the survey with the approved survey notification flyer and methods at least two weeks before the survey is administered.
- Small school districts with less than 150 enrolled in grades 6, 8, 10, or 12 can register additional grades 7, 9 and 11. For more information please visit: www.AskHYS.net/Registration
- To protect the anonymity of individual students, there are some restrictions for what is contained in school-level reports. Visit AskHYS.net for more information.
- Starting this year, two questions about sexual orientation and gender identity are part of the main survey for grades 8-12. Students can still choose not to respond to these questions, like any other question on the survey.
- Schools will be able to request an exemption from asking questions on sexual abuse and/or sexual behavior.
 - Please contact Health Care Authority at HCAHealthyYouthSurvey@hca.wa.gov if you would like to discuss an exemption for your school.
 - Washington HYS Adverse Childhood Experiences (WAH-ACEs) index is created using current survey questions, including one on sexual abuse. Schools that **do not administer** the sexual abuse question **will not** receive the WAH-ACEs results for their school.

To register your school(s), log into www.AskHYS.net and click on Register. If you need an AskHYS login, contact your district data security manager to add AskHYS to your OSPI [EDS permissions](#).

The HYS can provide valuable information about your students and can be used in a number of ways, including to:

- Provide details about student health behaviors that are linked to academic success.
- Provide data for program planning and improvements around: school safety and climate; alcohol, drug and tobacco prevention; and other health-related issues.
- Provide data for project or program grant applications for your school(s).

The following survey related materials can be found on the HYS recruitment web page www.AskHYS.net/Recruitment:

- *Question and Answer Fact Sheet* answers frequently asked questions about the survey.
- *Rationale and Description of Survey Content* provides an overview of the behavior covered by the survey and a statement of rationale for the inclusion of these items.

- *Extra Questions Fact Sheet* provides information about the value of data on sexual behavior and abuse.
- *How Can the Data Be Used* gives more detail about using the survey data.

Thank you for your consideration.

If you have any questions about the survey, please email SurveyAdmin@AskHYS.net
or call toll-free 1-877-HYS-7111.