



Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

Katja S. Fox
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BUREAU OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES

105 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301
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July 27, 2021

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS) I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which gathers nationally representative data from the State of New Hampshire students grade 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. Information gathered from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs in the State of New Hampshire, ensuring accountability, and providing an index and trend data against which states may compare their own local YRBS results.

The data produced by the New Hampshire YRBS allow for multiple initiatives that include: assessing trends in priority health risk behaviors among middle and high school aged youth, enabling schools and communities to understand risks and health behaviors of area youth, evaluations to the impact of broad school and community interventions, development of programs or policies to reduce risk and promote health, and to monitor whether health outcomes among youth are improving or deteriorating.

The State of New Hampshire benefits through numerous uses of the YRBS data that include; measurement and planning through schools, life of an athlete, student assistance, and drug free communities; funding of an array State of New Hampshire city, county, and public health region grants; emerging issues that can be identified from the YRBS data that directly affect the youth of the State of New Hampshire; Outcome data that can provide information on the success or failure of programs and policies targeted toward the YRBS audience; and Education and awareness can be garnered through YRBS data and distributed throughout the State of New Hampshire.

In New Hampshire, the YRBS is jointly administered by the Departments of Health & Human Services and Education. High schools are given the opportunity to participate in the random state survey, a comprehensive school-level census survey, or both. The data from the YRBS are used extensively by health departments, schools, and local area agencies to define areas of high health risk and to secure the resources necessary to address any identified issues. We encourage and recommend voluntary participation from the schools located throughout the State of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rogers".

Michael Rogers
Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Drug and
Alcohol Services (BDAS)
State of New Hampshire



345 Park Blvd
Itasca, IL 60143
Phone: 630/626-6000
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5/29/2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, US8-1
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

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At Large
Joseph L. Wright, MD, FAAP

Dear Dr Ethier:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is once again pleased to support the CDC's efforts in conducting the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS). The AAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of 67,000 pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical subspecialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. The data that the YRBS collects are critical to the adolescent health care work of the AAP, particularly as it relates to policy development and advocacy. Identification of risk behaviors among youth is critical in helping guide our efforts to reduce these behaviors and improve health outcomes of the nation's adolescents and young adults.

CDC's dedication to maintaining the YRBS system at all levels (local, state and national) is important in raising awareness of the kinds of risky behaviors in which adolescents engage, and the role of pediatricians and other health care providers in reducing these unhealthy and risky behaviors. The issues identified in the YRBS impact many facets of adolescents' lives that can result in long-term consequences, ranging for example from unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, poorer school performance, and unhealthy lifestyle choices.

I hope that health care providers and schools across the country see the importance of completing these surveys, the results of which will provide many opportunities for implementing so many programs at all levels.

I understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Fan Tait, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "V".

V. Fan Tait, MD, FAAP
Chief Medical Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

July 7, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which states may compare their own local YRBS results. APA members use this data in many aspects of psychological research, practice, and policy.

The national YRBS provides researchers and policymakers with rich information that helps us better understand and address the causes of, and detect disparities in, the occurrence of unhealthy behaviors among youth. Survey administration is not expected to place undue burden on state and local education agencies. The 2021 YRBS cycle will collect data on students' mental health and parent job loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it will allow us to monitor changes in all the other behaviors measured by the survey, including alcohol and other drug use, physical activity, dietary behaviors and injury and death by suicide.

Many state and local jurisdictions conduct their own school-based surveys of youth behaviors. However, sampling procedures and questionnaires vary, thereby making it impossible to compare or combine results. APA strongly recommends sustained federal investment in the YRBS as a vital national behavioral surveillance effort and encourages full voluntary state and local participation to achieve reliable national estimates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur C. Evans, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD
Chief Executive Officer

750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
(202) 336-6080
(202) 336-6069 (Fax)
aevans@apa.org

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD
*Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Vice President*



May 26, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Ethier:

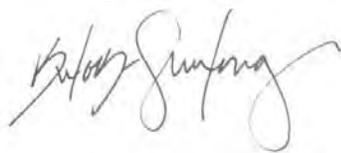
The American School Counselor Association is pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which states may compare state and local YRBS results.

I understand the survey will require one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff. School counselors are very cognizant of time constraints, so I appreciate efforts to reduce the burden in any one school by administering the survey only to a small number of classes (one or two per grade) selected randomly from required courses in selected schools.

School counselors are also very concerned about confidentiality, so I appreciate that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole.

ASCA supports school counselors' efforts to help their students improve academic achievement, social/emotional learning and career planning. A major priority is to help students develop the mindsets and behaviors that contribute to cognitive, emotional and physical health. The YRBS data is invaluable tool to help promote healthy behaviors and avoid risk behaviors. We encourage and recommend that states, school districts and individual schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,



Kwok-Sze Wong, EdD
Executive Director

One Vision One Voice
1101 King St., Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314-1757
703 683 ASCA (2722) fax 703 683 1619
www.schoolcounselor.org



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

April 27, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey M. Zirger
Information Collection Review Office
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, MS-D74
Atlanta, GA 30329

I write in my capacity as vice president of Research, Evaluation, Evidence and Data at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a Baltimore-based national philanthropy. We are responding to the notice in the Federal Register requesting comments for the approval of two additional biennial Youth Risk Behavior Surveys in 2021 and 2023.

Our Foundation's work focuses on strengthening families, building stronger communities and ensuring access to opportunity, because children and youth need all three to succeed. Research and data are core to our strategy and help us identify problems, develop and implement solutions and demonstrate what works.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation strongly supports the continued administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The findings of the YRBS are important for us to understand the status and trends of youth and young adult health and well-being in our communities and direct our efforts to the topical and geographic areas that could most greatly benefit from our support. The Foundation, KIDS COUNT organizations and other child advocates rely on these data to effectively do their work. We would like to continue to have the information as a resource and to keep making data available on the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Thank you for your attention to our comments. If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact me at cguy@aecf.org.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Guy
Vice President
Research, Evaluation, Evidence and Data
The Annie E. Casey Foundation



May 19, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30329

**Association of State and
Territorial Health Officials**

National Headquarters

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(202) 371-9090

Regional Office

600 Peachtree Street NE
Suite 1000
Atlanta, GA 30308
(202) 371-9090

www.astho.org
@ASTHO

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

ASTHO's mission is to support, equip, and advocate for state and territorial health officials in their work of advancing the public's health and well-being. The YRBS is an integral tool for collecting information about the health behaviors of high school youth, including risk taking and risk avoidance, and this data is critical for key public health decision makers and influencers to identify public health issues affecting youth. The information is supportive of the development of policies, interventions and evaluation at the state, local, and national levels.

ASTHO understands the rights and anonymity of all students are protected, and data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

Michael Fraser, PhD MS CAE FCPP
Chief Executive Officer
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

June 1, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of the Council of Chief State School Officers I am pleased to provide this letter to express the continuing support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9-12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

The information gathered a) helps determine the health status of youth throughout the country; and b) assists educators in planning and implementing effective coordinated school health programs including prevention of HIV infection and AIDS.

It is our understanding that the rights and anonymity of students are protected, and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. In addition, in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we appreciate your proactive planning in considering alternative scenarios for conducting the YRBS if they become necessary. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity as they are able to under the current circumstances.

Sincerely,



Carissa Miller, Ph.D.
Executive Director



*National
Association of
School Nurses*

1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 925
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
866-627-6767 (phone)
301-585-1791 (fax)
nasn@nasn.org (email)
www.nasn.org

May 13, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, US8-1
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

NASN recognizes that the 2021 YRBS process aims to reduce the burden in any one school, so only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

The behaviors the YRBS measures contribute to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity during both youth and adulthood. School nurses use these youth risk data to advocate for and improve school health policies and programs. NASN's work to help school nurses reduce youth vaping and avoid opioid overdose are just two examples of our efforts in this regard.

NASN understands that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected, and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

Donna Mazyck, MS, RN, NCSN, CAE
Executive Director

May 12, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Ethier:

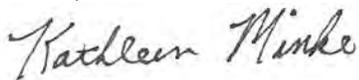
On behalf of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

NASP is a non-profit professional association representing around 24,000 school psychologists. School psychologists are specially trained to link mental health to learning and behavior. We work with parents, educators, and other mental health service providers to help each child develop resilience, competence, and self-esteem and to support students' families in meeting the educational and mental health needs of their children. Our members include practitioners, researchers, and graduate students. The YRBS provides information critical to researchers in planning, implementing, and evaluating prevention and intervention programs for youth.

I understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Minke, PhD, NCSP
NASP Executive Director



Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30329

May 27, 2020

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

As the leading organization of principals and other school leaders across the United States, the vision of NASSP is great leaders in every school committed to the success of each student. We also promote the intellectual growth, academic achievement, character and leadership development, and physical well-being of youth. NASSP partners with the Food Research and Action Center on its Healthy Schools Campaign and the Human Rights Campaign to create supportive and inclusive schools for LGBTQ students. We also expect to use the 2021 YRBS results in our continuing efforts to combat the youth vaping epidemic.

I understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected, and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that states, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "JoAnn D. Bartoletti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JoAnn D. Bartoletti
Executive Director, NASSP



May 12, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral
Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, US8-1
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Ethier:

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) is a national nonprofit that exists to serve and strengthen State Boards of Education in their pursuit of high levels of academic achievement for all students. NASBE relies heavily on current, unbiased, well-researched data to support our members in making informed policy decisions to best address their state's needs. As such, NASBE is pleased to offer this letter of support for the implementation of the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

Over the years, YRBS has proven to be a valuable and unique source of crucial state and national level information about the behaviors affecting the healthy growth and full development of our nation's children and youth. NASBE utilizes YRBS data to inform and assist education policy makers and practitioners in their efforts to develop policies and programs that foster health-promoting schools by providing nationally representative data on the priority health risk behaviors among adolescents. The continuation of YRBS will help ensure that state boards and other education decision makers will have access to important, credible research needed to develop sound policies and programs.

NASBE strongly supports the protection of the rights and anonymity of all students under the execution of the YRBS. NASBE understands that participation in the YRBS is entirely voluntary, that data is not reported by school, district, or state, and that a high participation rate in the survey leads to more accurate, nationally representative data. Thus, NASBE supports the implementation of the YRBS nationally, in every state, and in as many localities as possible.

Thank you for your efforts to provide state boards with the critical data they need to make informed policy decisions by conducting the YRBS. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert E. Hull". The signature is enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

Robert E. Hull
President and CEO



May 26, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, US8-1
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Ethier:

The National Catholic Educational Association is pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behaviors Study (2021YRBS), sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors.

Since the important information generated from YBRS 2019 is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs nationwide, including the private schools, the Association welcomes the opportunity for Catholic schools to contribute to this comprehensive assessment.

NCEA understands that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of students will be selected randomly from among classes in the required course subjects. The survey will take one regular 45 minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

Therefore, NCEA encourages and recommends that our Catholic schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Mears".

Kathy Mears
President/CEO



1201 16th St, N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García
President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Vice President

Princess R. Moss
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

May 13, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, US8-1
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of the National Education Association, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which states may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

As the nation's largest educator organization, the National Education Association understands the importance of student health in ensuring that children come to school ready to learn. Having high-quality data on teen risk behaviors helps NEA and its affiliates advocate for effective physical and mental health programs and provide teachers, education support professionals, and other school staff with the tools they need when working with students engaging in or considering health risk behaviors.

I understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim A. Anderson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director
National Education Association

Leslie C. Boggs
President

May 11, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of the National PTA, we are pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

These results are critical to understand the health status and needs of our youth. The results of this comprehensive survey add great insight into the world of our youth and the environment in which our young people spend the majority of their time. National PTA continues to be a relevant voice for all children by supporting and advocating for key education and health issues that have a significant impact on students and families.

National PTA understands that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boggs

May 8, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of AASA, the School Superintendents Association, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which states may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specifically trained field staff.

AASA has been a long-time partner with CDC in several health education efforts, including collecting data for the YRBS. This information is vital to the creation of effective and appropriate health education content, tools, and training to protect the health and well-being of the next generation.

I understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected, and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that states, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Domenech, PhD.
Executive Director

cc: Sharon Adams-Taylor
Associate Executive Director
Children's Initiative and Program Development



April 28, 2020

Jeffrey M. Zirger
Information Collection Review Office
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, MS-D74
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Dear Mr. Zirger:

We strongly support the continued administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The Urban Institute is a nonprofit research organization that believes decisions shaped by facts have the power to improve public policy and practice, strengthen communities, and transform people's lives for the better. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Surveillance System provide data critical to our nation's knowledge about the wellbeing and health of our youth.

Researchers and policy makers, alike, have been able to better understand the changing strengths, needs, and attitudes of our country's youth due to this survey continually capturing data over the last 26 years. As one example, we found the survey to be a unique source of data on topics of mental health, bullying, school safety, and extracurricular involvement for a recent Urban Institute product identifying indicators of connections of youth to their community. Being able to disaggregate the data by race and ethnicity also enables us to explore potential disparities in youth circumstances, opportunities, and outcomes. As the co-director of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, I can also share that the data are valuable to local communities, with the data used by the [New Orleans Youth Index](#), [Franklin County Youth Needs Assessment](#), and the [Travis County Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition](#), as well as a source for questions and benchmarking for local surveys, such as Washington State's [Healthy Youth Survey](#).

We look forward to the continued collection and publishing of this important data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Pettit".

Kathryn L.S. Pettit
Metropolitan Housing and Communities
500 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington DC 20024
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September 24, 2020

Kathleen A. Ethier, PhD
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Ethier:

On behalf of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), we are pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2021 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

NSBA advocates on behalf of the nation's more than 13,000 local school boards that strive to ensure that each child is provided the opportunities to be successful in school and in life. In its beliefs and policies, NSBA recognized the critical link between health and learning and the role of schools in promoting life-long health and preventing health risk behaviors.

We understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna M. Chávez".

Anna Maria Chávez
Executive Director & CEO
National School Boards Association



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