

November, 2017

Dear Superintendent:

The Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (WYSAC) is pleased to announce the upcoming 2018 Wyoming Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA). This survey is for all 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade students in Wyoming. The Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division, sponsors this survey with endorsement from the Wyoming Department of Education. The 2018 PNA represents the eighth time that the survey will be conducted in Wyoming. WYSAC will continue the tradition of providing the state of Wyoming, its counties, and its school districts with high quality information to aid decision making.

The PNA measures the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by adolescents and many underlying constructs that encourage or discourage the use of these substances in your schools. From this information, you will be able to identify local strengths and weaknesses that may be different from the rest of the state. Your community and your schools can use the information to plan and evaluate local substance abuse prevention efforts that address areas of concern or capitalize on strengths.

To be effective, the PNA must be successfully administered in all schools who teach 6th, 8th, 10th or 12th grade students within your district. My colleagues and I will work to make the process as easy and simple as possible and minimize the time commitment. We will prepare all the survey materials and send them to your schools. School coordinators will simply distribute the prepared survey packets to the teachers. The survey packets will contain everything needed to administer the surveys to the students. The teachers will only have to open the survey packet, hand out the surveys and the pencils, read the instructions to the students, and provide the remainder of the class period to complete the survey. Overall, the experience will be very similar what has been done in the past with the PNA and with the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

We recognize your important role in gathering this information from the students and understand your need for flexibility to find the best time to administer the survey within your schools. To address these concerns, you will be able to schedule the PNA in your schools any school day starting in late January and continuing through most of May.

We receive constant feedback that the survey is too long. In an effort to help ameliorate some of those concerns, we have shortened the survey, considerably. While the number of pages remains the same, the content has been shortened by almost a third. This means less content for your students and potentially, less time to complete the survey.

We are again offering an online version of the survey. We have offered the online version for the last few surveys and many schools chose to use the online version with great success. We urge you this year to use the online version of the survey for ease of administration and data evaluation. Your schools can choose to provide the survey in the traditional manner (paper based) also. Our long-term goals for the online form are to increase the survey's accessibility and present more timely results.

At this moment, all I need from you is to complete and return the enclosed agreement form. If you agree to participate, we will begin setting up the survey with the schools in your district. Additional information regarding the PNA survey is available on the project website: www.pnasurvey.org. After looking at any of these materials, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, feel free to contact me directly, the Principal Investigator on this project, at 307-760-0307 or ecanen@uwyo.edu.

Sincerely,



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