



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Education
& Early Development**

DIVISION OF INNOVATION &
EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

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February 27, 2023

Dear Ms. Melinda Bass,

Thanks to contributions from many state programs and community partners, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is able to provide Craig City School District a grant in the amount of \$850 as early as March for participating in the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). This anonymous and voluntary survey is being administered in your district by the Alaska Department of Health (DOH) in cooperation with the DEED.

The purpose of this funding is to support the successful implementation of the survey, so the Alaska YRBS Program recommends that the funds are used to cover costs associated with YRBS promotion and/or administration. The Alaska YRBS Program also encourages school districts to divide the funds among the participating schools for use at the school level.

If your schools struggle with parent/guardian permission form return, you are encouraged to use at least some of the money to encourage permission form return. Some schools enter students into a drawing and others offer parties or prizes for classes with a high permission form return rate. **Please note: if you choose to offer incentives for permission form return, any signed form – regardless of whether the parent gives permission or not – must be eligible for the incentive.**

Other common strategies used by school districts and schools to support the YRBS include:

- reminder calls, letters, and emails to parents about permission form return;
- stipends for counselors, school YRBS coordinators, or teachers to assist with survey promotion, planning, and administration; and
- informational tables at school events, such as parent-teacher conferences.

Finally, any money not used for YRBS promotion and administration may be used to support a school program or activity that aims to reduce adolescent risk behavior.

These funds **must** be spent by **June 30, 2023**. Funds will not be available to spend after this date. There are no reporting requirements for the business office. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Sidmore (DEED) at pat.sidmore@alaska.gov or 907-465-2939 or Andrea Fenaughty (DOH) at yrbs@alaska.gov or 907-269-8030.

Sincerely,

Pat Sidmore
Program Coordinator
Education and Early Development

Andrea Fenaughty
Deputy Section Chief
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion