



2023 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey Supplemental Information

Ways you can participate in the 2023 YRBS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently selected the schools that are eligible to participate in Alaska's 2023 statewide traditional and alternative high school surveys. These statewide surveys are designed to produce data that are representative of Alaska's diverse high school population and informative about the risk and protective behaviors of our students. Not all districts have schools selected for these statewide surveys. However, all districts that meet the Alaska YRBS Program's student enrollment threshold have the option of participating in the district-level survey to obtain YRBS results at the district level. The same questionnaire is used for each of these different surveys, and students will only ever participate once, regardless of how many of the different YRBS surveys their school district chooses to participate in.

To be eligible to receive funding from the YRBS Program, please complete the YRBS Participation Agreement Form included with this email and return it to YRBS@alaska.gov by January 30, 2023.

When you can conduct the YRBS

Alaska students take the YRBS every other year in odd-numbered years in public traditional and alternative high schools. The 2023 Alaska YRBS will be administered during the second (spring) semester. Districts can select one survey administration date for all their schools, or they can identify a one- to two-week survey window and ask each school to select their preferred administration date during that time. However, each school must administer the survey during a single class period on one day, to ensure students are surveyed only once. The YRBS is completed in one 45-minute class period.

How the Alaska YRBS Program can help you conduct the YRBS

1. By providing supplies

The YRBS program is invested in helping your district succeed. All materials required for survey administration, including questionnaires, pencils, and return envelopes, as well as shipping, will be covered by the Alaska YRBS Program.

2. By providing funding

Through the generosity of many partners, the Alaska YRBS Program will also offer financial assistance to all participating school districts. School districts can use these YRBS funds to cover costs associated with YRBS promotion or administration. Funding may be used to:

- hire temporary staff or provide a stipend to district or school survey coordinators;
- purchase supplies or other materials for teachers;
- provide incentives¹ for students to encourage permission form return; or
- support a school program or activity that aims to reduce adolescent risk behavior.

¹If you choose to offer incentives for permission form return, any signed form – regardless of the parent's "yes" or "no" selection – must be eligible for the incentive.



3. By providing technical assistance and helpful tools

The Alaska YRBS Program will offer an informational webinar for school district YRBS coordinators in January 2023, followed by regular Zoom meetings. We encourage you to share this [short informational video](#) about the Alaska YRBS and how the survey results are used with school administrators, teachers, and parents. Additional information for parents and guardians is available on the [Information for Parents](#) page of our website. This page provides a brief introduction to the YRBS and answers to frequently asked questions.

Where you can find YRBS results

District-level results

School districts often find their own district-level results crucial to understanding the health risks and resiliencies of their students. The 2019 Alaska YRBS district results can be accessed from the [Results page](#) of the YRBS website. After the 2023 YRBS is administered, the Alaska YRBS Program will prepare school district YRBS data dashboards for every district that participates in the district-level YRBS and meets our minimum response threshold of 30 students. This minimum response threshold is designed to protect student anonymity and ensure a high level of data quality. YRBS district-level data dashboards include school district and statewide data, as well as sample and response rate information. We also provide additional documentation on how to interpret the results.

Statewide results

Alaska YRBS results are used by many partners to understand and improve the health of Alaska adolescents. Statewide YRBS results are shared with partners and the public when enough schools and students have participated to ensure we have data that are representative of the state as a whole. The 2019 Alaska YRBS statewide can be accessed from the [Results page](#) of the [YRBS website](#). If we are successful collecting representative statewide data in 2023, we will also provide those results in a similar fashion.

How to obtain parent/guardian permission

Written parent/guardian permission must be obtained before a student can participate in the YRBS. If you have not already obtained permission, please use the [YRBS Sample Parent/Guardian Permission Form](#) found on our website.

- Some school districts obtain parental permission during the school registration and enrollment process, often electronically.
- Districts can collect permission forms at parent-teacher conferences and other school events, such as basketball games.
- Districts can post information about the YRBS and the parent permission form on their electronic portal.
- Paper permission forms can be mailed or emailed to the students' parents or guardians.
- Reminder emails and letters help to increase the number of forms that are returned.

If you need more assistance

For additional information and background about the survey, visit the [Alaska YRBS website](#). You can also find answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the survey.

If you have questions or concerns about participating in the survey, please contact the Alaska YRBS Program at 907-269-8030 or via email at YRBS@alaska.gov.