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November 4, 2015

Dear Superintendent,

In 2010, the Oregon Student Wellness Survey (SWS) was introduced to assess school climate, substance use and the mental and behavioral health of Oregon youth. The SWS assesses factors that influence student success such as school climate, supportive parents and teachers, commitment to school, and positive youth development. It also examines risk factors like mental and emotional health, substance use, and gambling. In addition, the survey provides information about antisocial behaviors at school such as bullying, fighting and truancy.

The SWS was carefully designed to provide the data that are critical for monitoring a number of school and community grants, and coordinate health policies and programs in counties all over the state. The survey can be completed in one class period with less time needed for the online version. Most school districts participated in the survey in 2010, 2012, and 2014 yielding a rich set of data. Because of high participation rate, the SWS provided educators, parents, citizens, health care providers and policymakers with information that is vital to making decisions that will shape a positive future for Oregon's youth.

The Oregon Health Authority, through a contract with ISA Pride Surveys, will be offering the 2016 SWS at *no charge to schools*. All schools with students in grades 6, 8 or 11 (public, private, alternative or charter) are encouraged to participate.

Administration of the 2016 SWS will incorporate the following school-requested features:

- New for the 2016 SWS will be prior year comparison data. For those schools/districts that participated in the 2012 and 2014 SWS, the 2016 report will illustrate comparisons to those previous years data for measures such as 30 day use of alcohol, marijuana, and smoking as well as perceived risk of use, ease of ATOD access, depression, school safety, and truancy,
- Web-based training about the survey and how it is administered,
- Scheduled in January and February to minimize conflicts with state testing,

- Choice of administering the SWS online or using paper-and-pencil,
- Preliminary reports of district- and school-level results distributed in May,
- Final reports that compare school results to the state available in August.

The Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority strongly recommend this survey. You will find sample surveys, a SWS fact sheet and a School District Agreement form enclosed. To schedule surveys for schools in your district: 1) identify a school district coordinator, 2) complete the School District Agreement Form and 3) fax it to Wendy McGrath at (770) 726-9327. You can also email the form to wendy.mcgrath@pridesurveys.com or call her at 800-279-6361.

As soon as you fax the School District Agreement form with your approval to participate, ISA Pride Surveys will contact your school district coordinator who will assist in: 1) ensuring parents and guardians are notified of the nature of the survey and consent procedures; 2) identifying a designated contact person to proctor the survey; and 3) returning completed surveys to ISA Pride Surveys in a timely manner.

For additional information concerning the Student Wellness Survey you can contact Rusha Grinstead at the Oregon Health Authority, Office of Health Analytics. She can be reached at 503-602-9214 or by e-mail at rusha.grinstead@state.or.us

Thank you again for your consideration of this important request.



Salam A. Noor, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oregon Department of Education



Lynne Saxton
Director

Oregon STUDENT WELLNESS Survey

2016 FAQ's

***Oregon Health Authority is conducting the Student Wellness Survey in
February 1st – April 8, 2016.***

There are two state-wide adolescent health surveys conducted in Oregon—the Student Wellness Survey and the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey. The surveys are administered in alternate years. The Oregon Health Authority is conducting the Student Wellness Survey in February 1st – April 8th, 2016. The next Oregon Healthy Teens Survey will take place in Spring 2017. Both surveys provide important data to fully understand and help the youth of Oregon. The surveys have some over-lapping questions, to better track behavior patterns over time, but a large portion of each survey is unique. That is why both surveys are important and schools and youth should, if able, participate in both surveys whenever possible.

What is the focus of the Student Wellness Survey?

The Student Wellness Survey was introduced in 2010 to assess school climate and the behavioral health of Oregon youth in grades six, eight and eleven. School climate shows the degree to which students feel they belong, are valued and are physically and emotionally safe at school. The behavioral health focus assesses risk and protective factors that influence student success. There are two versions of the survey, one for middle schools and a slightly longer survey for high schools.

Grade 6 & 8	Grade 11	Topics on the Student Wellness Survey
✓	✓	Student mobility--how often youth move or change schools
✓	✓	Commitment to school including school performance, school attendance, and how important they think school is for their future
✓	✓	Opportunities for participation in class and other school activities
✓	✓	Meaningful relationships with teachers, school staff and other students
✓	✓	Witnessing or perpetrating harassment, bullying or fighting in the school environment
✓	✓	Antisocial behavior such as carrying weapons, selling drugs, or being drunk at school
✓	✓	Positive youth development
✓	✓	Psychological stress, depression and suicide ideation
	✓	Problem gambling and substance use (primarily patterns of alcohol, tobacco and Marijuana, synthetic drug use, accessibility, perceived risk of harm and parent attitudes about use)
	✓	How youth get alcohol, tobacco and marijuana and lifetime use of illicit drugs
	✓	Height, weight, body image and unhealthy eating behaviors

Why should a district participate in the Student Wellness Survey?

- In 2010 most school districts participated (82%) providing a robust statistical comparison for schools, districts and counties. In 2012 the participation rate increased by 10% and in 2014 the participation rate increased by 6%.
- Results from this survey provide the backbone for data driven decisions. Many schools and communities use the results for planning purposes, to track student behavior changes, report outcomes for grants and to apply for funding for future prevention efforts.

Oregon

STUDENT WELLNESS

Survey

2016 FAQ's

Who can participate?

- All Oregon public, alternative, charter and private schools with students in grades 6, 8 and 11 are invited to participate at no charge to schools. Schools are encouraged to survey all eligible students, but large schools may opt to survey a sample of their youth.

What will the participating district and school receive?

- Participating districts and schools that survey 10 or more students in a grade will receive an electronic Student Wellness Survey report. Each report is organized into chapters that highlight specific topics. Chapters provide: background information about the topic, summary data tables and graphs. Reports will also compare results in multiple years and illustrate trends in substance use and behavioral health of students. The appendices at the end of the report include data tables for each survey item, and copies of the 2016 surveys.

When will the survey results be available?

- Confidential district- and school-level reports will be issued to School Superintendents in June 2016. The preliminary report provides all of the standard tables and graphs that are in the final report but will not yet contain the state-level comparisons.
- Final reports will be ready in Fall 2016. Data tables in the final reports include state and local results for all three grades. This makes it easy to compare local results to those of the state and to see the differences among 6th, 8th, and 11th grade students.

What is the cost of the surveys?

- All 6th, 8th, and 11th grade students can be surveyed at no charge to schools. Public, private, charter and alternative schools are encouraged to participate.

How long are the surveys and how are they administered?

- It takes students 45 minutes or less to complete the Student Wellness Survey. School districts can choose to use the on-line survey or paper-and-pencil.

Are the participants anonymous?

- The survey is voluntary and individual survey responses are completely anonymous. Students are not asked to write their name or any identifying information on their survey.

What is new?

- New to the 2016 SWS school report will be prior years comparison data. For those schools/districts and counties that participated in 2012 and 2014, the report will illustrate comparisons of past three year data such as 30 day use for alcohol, marijuana, and smoking, as well as perceived risk of use, ease of ATOD access, depression, school safety and truancy.
- In 2014 there was a 6% increase in participation from 2012 and we encourage all schools to participate in 2016 to continue gathering trend data for the purposes of school improvement.

How can I get more information?

- Contact: **Rusha Grinstead, MS, MPH**, Office of Health Analytics, OHA at 503-602-9214 or rusha.grinstead@state.or.us. Additional information can be found on the Student Wellness Survey web site at: <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/amh/pages/student-wellness/index.aspx>

2015-2016 Student Wellness Survey Timeline

November 2, 2015	Invitation to participate mailed to District Superintendents
November 2 – January 15, 2016	School district coordinators return district agreement forms to ISA
January 15 – January 31, 2016	ISA distributes survey material to school district coordinators or ISA assigns passwords to districts and schools that are surveying online
February 1 – April 8, 2016	Schools administer the survey via paper/pencil or online
February 1 – April 8, 2016	School district coordinators return completed paper surveys or notify ISA when all schools have completed the online survey
June 2016	Confidential preliminary, district reports posted SWS website and Superintendents are given access via password
September 2016	Final password protected school, district, county, and state reports posted to Web
Fall 2016	Data webinars to review state report



