



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF DRUG AND
ALCOHOL PROGRAMS



pennsylvania
COMMISSION ON CRIME
AND DELINQUENCY

April 2016

Dear Superintendents and School Administrators:

We are pleased to provide you with the 2015 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) Summary Report for your district/school. The PAYS Summary Report offers a unique community-level profile of the underlying factors that contribute to, and protect against, substance abuse and delinquent behaviors among your community's youth.

The 2015 PAYS continues to provide a wealth of information to assist you in your planning efforts. We are excited that this report is again being provided to you at no cost through the partnership of Pennsylvania's Department of Education (PDE), Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

Several enhancements were made to the PAYS in 2015. Additional information about school climate and safety has been provided (especially around bullying), and where available, this information is able to be matched against the PDE School Climate Survey. It also includes data about sources of alcohol and prescription drugs, if youth obtained and used those substances. Finally, more specific detail about the types of pro-social activities in which youth engage is also displayed. The report will provide information about risk factors (conditions that can lead a youth to engage in problem behaviors) and protective factors (people or conditions in their lives that buffer a youth from the negative effects of risks) as reported by your students.

We would like to thank you for participating in the PAYS survey during this school year. We recognize that the administration of this survey can be an additional burden; however, we believe that the information contained in this report will be of great benefit to you in helping to understand the risks affecting youth in your community. This information can then assist you in selecting appropriate evidence-based prevention programming in response to these risk factors.

We invite you to visit the PAYS website at www.pays.pa.us for more information about the PAYS and assistance in interpreting your PAYS results, including a "How to Guide" that will walk you through the report. Should you have questions or comments about your report, please contact Geoff Kolchin, PCCD's PAYS Project Manager, at 717-265-8483 or by email at gkolchin@pa.gov. Additionally, Mr. Kolchin, as well as your local community prevention coalition, is available to visit you and your staff to assist in your PAYS analysis and interpretation.

Thank you again for your partnership and participation in this important endeavor to prevent substance abuse and delinquent behaviors among Pennsylvania youth.

Sincerely,

Pedro A. Rivera
Secretary
PA Department of Education

Gary Tennis
Secretary
PA Department of Drug and
Alcohol Programs

Linda Rosenberg
Executive Director
PA Commission on
Crime and Delinquency