

# The Pennsylvania Youth Survey: 2025 Timeline and Fact Sheet

Date	Action
April 2025	Survey questions available by request (please visit <a href="https://epis.psu.edu/paysquestion">https://epis.psu.edu/paysquestion</a> )  Superintendents receive notice of Fall 2025 PAYS administration  Please see the email from Bach Harrison for your unique online registration/agreement form link!
May/July 2025	Bach Harrison outreach to district-named Survey Coordinators to connect and outline next steps.
Summer 2025	Recruitment outreach to districts from community, prevention, & education supporters of PAYS
September 2 to December 22, 2025	PAYS administered in participating districts and schools. <i>Please note that we strongly suggest schools complete the survey before Thanksgiving break.</i>
December 23, 2025	Paper Survey Return Deadline
April 30, 2026	PAYS Reports released to schools and counties
July 31, 2026	District-level PAYS Web Tool access released for authorized individuals

## Facts about the PAYS

- A biennial survey of youth in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades administered in the fall of odd-numbered years since 1989.
  - **New to the 2025 survey administration is a “PAYS Jr.” 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Survey option.** This separate, shorter and age-appropriate survey can be added to any PAYS administration, at the discretion of the Superintendent.
- No cost for any Pennsylvania school district or private/charter/parochial/cyber school that wishes to participate!
- Collects information on school environment, mental health, and youth behaviors and attitudes related to alcohol/tobacco/other drugs, violence, and other problem behaviors mental health and youth attitudes and behaviors towards Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) use and other problem behaviors.
  - What our youth think and believe about mental health, substance use, violence and other problem behaviors.
  - What our youth think about their school environment.
- Data from the survey is an essential component of **successful grant writing** and can be used to leverage resources to help meet identified needs.
  - Provides prevention partnership opportunities to produce healthy youth development.
- Questions are asked in four domains—Community, School, Family, and Peer/Individual
  - Allows schools and communities to see what is happening in all aspects of their youths' lives.
  - Provides a holistic view of the students' environment including their communities, schools, families, and peers.
  - Helps to identify factors that can prevent a child from being ready to learn when they arrive to school each day.
- Surveys are **anonymous and confidential**—no individual student information can be obtained from the data set.
- In 2023, over 260,000 students across 1,048 schools in school districts and non-traditional schools took part in the PAYS. County reports are available for 57 counties (includes only counties that had a minimum of two participating districts). District reports (a profile report and an all-questions-by-grade report) are provided directly to school district superintendents or points of contact. District Superintendents are also provided with password-protected access to their data in the PAYS Web Tool.

For more information, visit [www.pays.pa.gov](http://www.pays.pa.gov), or contact Alise Barr, PAYS Support & Development Specialist Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS), [arh184@psu.edu](mailto:arh184@psu.edu).