



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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May 4, 2020

Dear Superintendent:

We recognize the challenges being faced by all Oregonians in response to COVID-19 and appreciate all of the hard work your team has put into adapting to a new learning environment that keeps everyone safe.

We are looking ahead to the fall, when, hopefully, students and teachers will be back in school. Given these unprecedented times, we need to understand COVID-19's impact on our students and families. School districts in Oregon have an opportunity to participate in an important survey in the fall of 2020 that will provide you valuable data about the physical, mental and social well-being of students across Oregon.

How has COVID-19 affected students?

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) has worked closely with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to incorporate questions in the Student Health Survey (SHS) to identify how COVID-19 has affected students and their household. Given the broad scope of the SHS, we will also be able to hone in on SSA priority populations and other vulnerable students, such as those who are food or housing insecure or in foster care, LGBTQ students, etc. to see whether COVID-19 has exacerbated stressors among students and families. This information is vital to determining how we can best support our students as they transition back into schools or continue with distance learning.

The SHS will be conducted in Oregon schools with 6th, 8th and 11th graders starting in the fall of 2020. All schools in Oregon serving these grade levels will be invited and encouraged to participate since this survey is the primary source of reliable, population-based data on:

- Social determinants of health
- Positive youth development (PYD)
- School climate
- Mental health and suicide
- Sexual health
- Substance use
- Healthy body

The SHS can assist schools with the Student Success Act (SSA)

These results can help districts plan and use Student Success Act (SSA) funds. They can also help schools coordinate with local public health agencies or Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) to provide services for the coming year.

OHA has contracted with Bach-Harrison (BH) to manage the survey procedures, analyze data and provide results to districts and schools. Beginning in May, BH will contact each district to *schedule dates for parent notification letters and for survey administration, which will take place October to December*. Participating districts and schools will receive their results in May 2021.

OHA will develop a report and a SHS data portal, which will allow districts and schools to look at their results. Those with larger sample sizes will be able to look at disparities among:

- Students of color
- Students who are emerging bilinguals
- Students with disabilities
- Students navigating poverty, hunger, homelessness and foster care

Participation is voluntary. Students and their parents or guardians have multiple opportunities to opt out of participating.

District Approval Needed for Your Schools to Participate

A copy of the 6th, 8th and 11th grade survey instruments are enclosed for your review. **As soon as you contact BH with your approval to participate**, BH can begin contacting your district coordinator to begin the survey administration process.

- Please complete the enclosed **District Agreement Form** and return it to Mary Johnstun via email at mary@bach-harrison.com. Or you can complete it online at: <https://airtable.com/shrIUwyssZzllJuHo>
- If you have questions for BH, please call Mary at 801-842-2682.

For more information on the 2020 SHS:

Visit: healthoregon.org/shs

Email: Studenthealth.survey@dhsoha.state.or.us

Contact: Renee Boyd at (971-673-1145) or renee.k.boyd@dhsoha.state.or.us

Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority strongly recommend and encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to use the SHS and will work closely with participating school districts. We sincerely hope your district will agree to participate in this important survey.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen
Director
Oregon Health Authority



Colt Gill
Director
Oregon Department of Education

CC: Principals

ENCL: District Agreement Form
6th, 8th, 11th grade survey instruments