



**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

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Commissioner of Education  
President of the University of the State of New York  
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Albany, New York 12234

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December 2, 2024

Dear Superintendent and Principal,

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintain a partnership to foster coordinated school health policies and programs for youth.

NYSED has contracted with the NYS Center for School Health (NYSCSH) to conduct the 2025 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

Participation in the YRBS is easy and important, providing students in your state with an opportunity to be represented and share their voices anonymously and voluntarily.

The purpose of the YRBS is to gather state representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. These behaviors contribute to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity during both youth and adulthood and include behaviors that result in unintentional injuries and violence, tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors that contribute to HIV infection, and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and unintended pregnancies; unhealthy dietary behaviors and physical inactivity.

Monitoring the behaviors that put our youth at greatest risk for harm can provide essential information used to improve outcomes for students. YRBS data will provide valuable insight into the current and emerging trends of youth engagement in risk behaviors.

The NYSED and CDC respects the educational mission of schools; for that reason, only a small number of classes in each school are asked to participate.

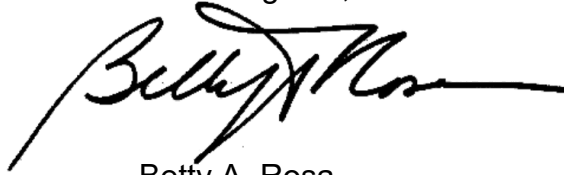
Data collection will occur during January through May 2025. Survey administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. States, counties, cities, school districts, schools, and students will not be identified in any published reports.

The YRBS has become the primary source of information on the most important health-risk behaviors of high school students in this country and is increasingly used by leading educators, public health officials, lawmakers, doctors, community organizations, and other youth advocates to inform school and community programs, communications campaigns, and other efforts.

This year more than ever we need your help to obtain data that will help to prevent and reduce the risk of unhealthy behaviors in our youth.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this important initiative and for participating in this opportunity to positively impact health education in New York State. For further questions, please contact Shelly Budinski at the NYSCSH at 585-617-2383.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty A. Rosa", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Betty A. Rosa

Commissioner