



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## MEMORANDUM No. 2013-010

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Shannon Cranmore, EDFacts Coordinator

**DATE:** February 11, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Youth Risk Behavior Survey Information

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### INFORMATION TO SHARE

The distribution of the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is approaching. Wyoming middle and high schools are chosen randomly by our forms contractor to participate. Individual schools that **were not** chosen to be part of the random sample have the opportunity to participate in this biennial survey by accepting the invitation when called by a member of our staff. The YRBS is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE).

The YRBS is a survey of middle and high school students that assesses priority health-risk behaviors, including:

- (1) behaviors that result in unintentional injuries and violence
- (2) tobacco use
- (3) alcohol and other drug use
- (4) sexual behaviors that contribute to HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies
- (5) unhealthy dietary behaviors
- (6) physical inactivity

Data collection occurs from February-April 2013. Questionnaires are distributed and the survey is conducted during one normal class period. Because the WDE respects the educational mission of schools, only a small number of classes in each school are chosen to participate. Survey administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. Counties, cities, school districts, schools, and students will not be identified in any way in published reports.

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Your support for these surveys ensures the voluntary participation of the schools selected in your district. The YRBS is the primary source of information regarding the risk behaviors of students in this country, and is increasingly used by leading educators, public health officials, the media, and others to advocate for and improve school health policies and programs.

In addition to this survey, the YRBS is conducted in other states, cities, territories, and tribal governments. The results can be compared to other surveys and used to support the design, implementation, and evaluation of effective prevention and control programs, for the benefit of all students.

Enclosed are copies of the YRBS questionnaire and sample parental permission forms. Within one week, we will contact schools in your district to seek their support for participating in the 2013 YRBS and answer any questions. Please contact Shannon Cranmore at 307-777-6245 or email at [Shannon.cranmore@wyo.gov](mailto:Shannon.cranmore@wyo.gov) if you have questions or concerns.

SC:rs

Enclosure