

## **Understanding Student Needs**

**WHEREAS**, With the vast number of states participating, the Center for Disease Control's Youth Risk Behavior Survey is the largest and most comprehensive method to understand the needs of children and youth in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Participation in this survey provides extensive anonymized data regarding children, youth, and families. This enables legislators, policy makers, education planners, social service workers, advocates, stakeholders, and others to inform their work and better meet student needs effectively; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida abandoned statistical collection efforts via the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2022 and substituted less comprehensive forms, thereby hampering educational and social programs' abilities to meet students' needs; and

### **THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, Florida PTA urges the legislature, policy makers, and stakeholders to mandate the collection of data via the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and support the collection of data within their districts.

## **Rationale**

Often, the best way to find out information is to ask questions and listen to their answers. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey asks necessary questions so we can learn through their anonymized answers what teens are doing and feeling. This gives us insight as to their physical and mental health and their participation in risky behaviors that can lead to death. An analysis of the reliable Youth Risk Behavior Survey results is crucial to improve Florida's support of students and families within the health, social service, and education systems. This knowledge provides a necessary foundation for programs to meet students' needs and address changing trends.

As of 2022, Florida discontinued participation in the comprehensive, well-established Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Without this key information, Florida's health, social service, and education systems will be unaware of students' critical risky behaviors and experiences. Thus, students' needs will be unmet in Florida.

As child advocates, we need the most comprehensive and accurate data to help our students. We need Florida to participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

## Sources

### **Whereas 1                    Youth Risk Behavior Survey Description**

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Underwood, J. Michael, et al. “Amplifying Improvements in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.” *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, 18 July 2020, [https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(20\)30336-0/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(20)30336-0/fulltext).

Mpofu, Jonetta J. “Overview and Methods for the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System — United States, 2021.” *NCBI*, 28 April 2023, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10156160/>.

“YRBSS Overview | DASH.” CDC, 27 April 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/overview.htm>.

### **Whereas 2                    Participation in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

Mpofu, Jonetta J. “Overview and Methods for the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System — United States, 2021.” *NCBI*, 28 April 2023, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10156160/>.

“YRBSS Participation | DASH.” CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/participation.htm>.

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### **Whereas 3                    Florida Discontinued Participation**

Dollard, Norín. “It's Time to Reinstate the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.” *Florida Policy Institute*, 24 July 2023, <https://www.floridapolicy.org/posts/its-time-to-reinstate-the-youth-risk-behavior-survey>.

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“Student Support Services.” *Florida Department of Education*, <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/sss/>.

“Florida's Decision to Withdraw From Youth Risk Behavior Survey Was 'Done in Darkness,' Think Tank Says.” *Florida Policy Institute*, 18 April 2022,  
<https://www.floridapolicy.org/posts/floridas-decision-to-withdraw-from-youth-risk-behavior-survey-was-done-in-darkness-think-tank-says>.