



ANA M. VIAMONTE-ROS, M.D., M.P.H.
STATE SURGEON GENERAL



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DR. ERIC J. SMITH
Commissioner of Education

INTERAGENCY MEMORANDUM



DATE: January 14, 2008

TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
District School Superintendents

FROM: Ana M. Viamonte-Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General, Department of Health

Eric J. Smith, PhD
Commissioner, Florida Department of Education

SUBJECT: 2008 Florida Youth Survey (FYS)

ACTION

REQUIRED: Designate staff and plan for survey

Effective Immediately

The Florida Department of Health is preparing to conduct the ninth edition of the highly successful Florida Youth Survey (FYS). This annual cooperative effort is designed to reduce the survey burden on Florida's public middle and high schools (by combining surveys into a single survey administration), to increase the usefulness of collected data for the state, and to meet the program planning and evaluation needs of diverse programs such as Safe and Drug-Free Schools, the Florida Tobacco Control Program, and the Coordinated School Health Program. This survey effort is co-sponsored by Florida's Departments of Education, Health, Children and Families, Juvenile Justice, and the Governor's Office of Drug Control.

The specific date for conducting the survey will be determined at the local level, but must occur during the **five-week survey period beginning March 31, 2008, and ending on May 2, 2008**. There will be two surveys, the *Florida Youth Tobacco Survey* (FYTS) and the *Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey* (FYSAS) given to randomly selected students in grades 6-12. It is critical to national, state, and local program planning and evaluation that your selected schools and students participate in this important survey.

The *Florida Youth Tobacco Survey* is used to evaluate the impact of Florida's innovative program to prevent and reduce youth tobacco use. The *Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey* provides important information on alcohol and other drug use, attitudes, and behaviors; risk and protective factors; and the community context that influences these variables. Each of the survey instruments is either similar or identical to the surveys administered in the past.

It is important that school district and county health department personnel cooperate and collaborate to encourage maximum participation by the approximately 775 schools selected to participate throughout the state. Actual administration of the survey to individual schools and classes will be arranged at the local level. In each school that is selected, a small number of classes will be chosen to participate. Within selected classrooms, students will randomly receive only one of the survey instruments, but both will have the same cover. Each student will complete only one survey. The survey will take no more than one class period to complete. Anonymity will be protected, and students do not have to respond to any questions they are not comfortable answering.

Technical assistance and details about the administration of the survey will be provided to county health department and school district staff during a one-day training and orientation. The training sessions are tentatively scheduled for February 19, 2008, in Tallahassee; February 20, 2008, in Orlando; and February 22, 2008, in Miami. One coordinator from the school district and one coordinator from the county health department should attend the training. These coordinators will work together to carry out the survey effort in their county. Those who attend the training should be the ones that will actually carry out the survey coordination.

Please designate a person from your agency to serve as coordinator on the enclosed Coordinator Designation Form and return it by fax or e-mail by January 21, 2008. Detailed information about the training will be sent to the designees once a completed Coordinator Designation Form has been received.

School districts should be sure to have a student privacy policy in place as required by changes to the *General Educational Provisions* of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (Section 1061, Title X, Part F of P.L. 107-110).

We look forward to working with and assisting you in implementing the 2008 Florida Youth Survey. If you have any questions about the survey process, please contact Ms. Jamie Weitz, Florida Youth Survey Coordinator at the Department of Health, at (850) 245-4444, Ext. 2424, or via e-mail at jamie_weitz@doh.state.fl.us.

AVR/EJS/jrw

Attachment(s)

cc: County Health Departments: School Health Coordinators
County Health Departments: Tobacco Prevention Specialists
School District Contacts: Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinators
School District Contacts: Coordinated School Health Coordinators
School District Contacts: Directors of Student Services

2008 FLORIDA YOUTH SURVEY Coordinator Designation Form

PLEASE RETURN BY JANUARY 25th VIA FAX OR E-MAIL

To: Jamie Weitz
Bureau of Epidemiology, Florida Department of Health

FAX: 850-922-9299

E-MAIL: jamie_weitz@doh.state.fl.us

The following person is designated to serve as coordinator from our county/district for the 2008 Florida Youth Survey Effort:

NAME: _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS (to receive overnight mail & deliveries):

PHONE: (_____) _____ FAX: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

County: _____

Representing: Check One (✓):

- School District Coordinator: _____
- County Health Department: _____

Questions regarding FYS coordinator designation

Contact Jamie Weitz at 850-245-4444, Ext. 2424, or by e-mail at jamie_weitz@doh.state.fl.us.

I will be attending the:

_____ Tallahassee Training (February 19)

_____ Orlando Training (February 20)

_____ Miami Training (February 22)