

SCOMM

125:43



Alaska State Legislature

House Special Committee on Education Representative Con Bunde, Chair

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(800) 892-4843 (907) 465-4843 (phone)
(907) 465-3871 (fax)
Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

Brian Porter
Joe Green
Peggy Wilson
Gary Stevens
Reggie Joule
Gretchen Guess

Sponsor Statement

HB 408

"An Act relating to questionnaires and surveys administered in the public schools."

The purpose of the proposed repeal and reenactment of AS 14.03.110 is to enable local school districts in the State of Alaska to administer anonymous questionnaires and surveys to students with passive parental consent. Additionally, this bill requires that schools must provide a parent or legal guardian at least two weeks' written notice of any survey so that parents may have the option to deny permission for their student to participate. Moreover, students may opt out at anytime, as this statute refers to voluntary, not mandatory, surveys or questionnaires.

Current statute requires active written parental consent from the parent or legal guardian for the student to participate in the survey. This has resulted in the lack of "weighted" data collection, due to the logistics and time required to collect sufficient parental permission forms. When passive parental consent was used prior to the enactment of AS 14.03.110, the State was able to collect weighted data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in both 1995 and 1999. In January of 2001 (the last YRBS cycle), the YRBS high school sample was drawn. The high school sample included 36 schools from 19 districts and sought 1,480 completed questionnaires. The goal was to get a level of participation from both schools and students to achieve an overall response rate of 60% or greater. The overall response rate for 2001 was 29%. This is far short of the 60% overall rate needed to have "weighted" or representative data. To provide a comparison, the 1999 YRBS response rate was 66% and the 1995 response rate was 64%.

Anonymous survey data results are used to help focus programs and policies for comprehensive school health education, school safety policy and education, and drug and violence prevention education. Additionally, results from surveys can also be used to:

- Monitor how priority health risk behaviors among high school (grades 9-12) and middle school (grades 7-8) students increase, decrease or remain the same over time.
- Evaluate the impact of broad national, state, and local efforts to prevent health-risk behaviors.
- Monitor progress in achieving relevant national and state health objectives and National Education Goals.
- Obtain grants for programs and services.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of the 1997 Alaska Tobacco Tax increase.
- Support local school districts in assessment, implementation, and evaluation of comprehensive school health programs.
- Set Priorities for statewide comprehensive school health education teacher training and instructional programs.
- Provide comparable data between state and national results.
- Monitor progress in achieving Healthy Alaskan 2010 objectives.
- Provide the state with the most reliable and valid instrument available to assess risk behaviors of Alaskan youth.

SPONSOR STATEMENT

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

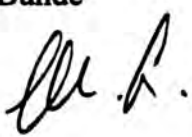
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 18, 2002

SUBJECT: Public school questionnaires - HB 408

TO: Representative Con Bunde
Attn: Karen

FROM: Michael F. Ford 
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Prohibits a public school student being given a school questionnaire or survey unless written permission is obtained from the student's parent or legal guardian, or the questionnaire or survey is anonymous or concerns a matter of public record or public observation.

Section 2. Provides that for an anonymous school questionnaire or survey written permission is not required, but the student's parent or legal guardian must get the opportunity to deny permission to take the questionnaire or survey.

Section 3. Requires that for purposes of a school questionnaire or survey under AS 14.03.110(a) or (b), the school district must provide a parent or legal guardian at least two weeks written notice of the right to grant or deny permission to take the school questionnaire or survey, before it is administered.

Section 4. Specifies the contents of the written notice required to be given a parent or legal guardian, regarding a school district questionnaire or survey.

Section 5. Provides that a student's parent or legal guardian may refuse to allow participation in a specific school questionnaire or survey by submitting written denial of permission for the student's participation.

MFF:med
02-167.med

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB 408
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: EED
Title "An Act relating to questionnaires and surveys
administered in the public schools" BRU Teaching and Learning Support
Sponsor H EDU Component Special and Supplemental
Requester H EDU Services _____
Component No. 166

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Currently, the law states that active parental permission is required before schools and districts can survey students anonymously. This bill would change the current legislation by allowing districts to gather passive parental permission before the administration of any anonymous surveys. This change would maximize the ability of school, district and state agencies to gather pertinent information about student reported behaviors that lead to early morbidity and mortality. By being able to gather credible data from students, many local and state agencies would have valid and reliable assessment data which in turn, would allow for better program planning and use of program dollars. This change would allow local and state agencies to compete effectively for limited state and federal grant funds that rely on accurate needs assessments.

Prepared by: Beth Shober, Education Specialist Phone 465-2887
Division Teaching and Learning Support Date/Time 2/19/02 10:57 AM
Approved by: Ed McLain Date 2/19/2002
Agency Education and Early Development

Bill Analysis: HB 408

Bill Title: "Student Questionnaires and Surveys"

Sponsor: House Special Committee on Education (for the Dept. of Health & Social Services and the Department of Education and Early Development)

Bill Would:

- 1) Allows students to be given anonymous questionnaires as long as the parents or guardians don't object. Parents/guardians may refuse permission.
- 2) Allows students to refuse on their own to answer particular questions or take part in the survey.
- 3) Requires that parents/guardians be notified of the survey two weeks before it's conducted and requires the notice to provide information about the survey.

Possible Questions:

- 1) Does the Youth Risk Behavior Study come under any federal requirements, such as the Protection of Pupil Rights legislation or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act? (no)
- 2) Who constructs the questions that are included in this survey? (federal government)
- 3) How is student privacy protected?
- 4) In what way did the active parental consent requirement affect local school districts' ability to compare their youth risk behaviors with the rest of the state and the country? (Before, 28-30 districts participated. After, 12-14 participated and only 4 got useful data.)

Available to Testify:

- 1) Elmer Lindstrom, Dept. of Health & Social Services
- 2) Beth Shober, Health Education Specialist from DEED
- 3) Cyndy Curran, Teacher Certification, DEED
- 4) Debbie Ossiander, Anchorage School Board (by offnet)
- 5) Bethel School District
- 6) Kathryn Arlen, Youth on the Streets, Juneau

Teleconference Sites:

Wrangell, Kotzebue, Kodiak and Anchorage.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2002

TO: Representative Fred Dyson
Chair, House HESS Committee

FROM: Representative Con Bunde, Chair

RE: HB 408, "Student Questionnaires and Surveys"

I respectfully request that you schedule a hearing for HB 408 at your earliest possible convenience. I have attached copies of the bill, sponsor statement, sectional analysis, fiscal note, backup information and letters of support.

If you have any questions or concerns about this legislation, I would be happy to discuss them with you.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



Alaska State Legislature

House Special Committee on Education

Representative Con Bunde, Chair

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MFF:med
02-167.med

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 408
(H) Publish Date: 2/20/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: EED
Title "An Act relating to questionnaires and surveys
administered in the public schools" BRU Teaching and Learning Support
Sponsor H EDU Component Special and Supplemental
Requester H EDU Services
Component No. 166

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

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Travel						
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CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

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Prepared by: Beth Shober, Education Specialist
Division Teaching and Learning Support
Approved by: Ed McLain
Agency Education and Early Development

Phone 465-2887
Date/Time 2/19/02 10:57 AM
Date 2/19/2002

Anonymous Self-Reporting Survey Data

General Talking Points/ Frequently Asked Questions.

- **What are the benefits from conducting anonymous student surveys?** State and local education agencies and communities can use results to help focus programs and policies for comprehensive school health education, school safety education and policy as well as drug and violence prevention education. Results from surveys can also be used to (1) monitor how priority health risk behaviors among high school students (grades 9-12) increase, decrease or remain the same over time; (2) evaluate the impact of broad national, state, and local efforts to prevent health-risk behaviors; (3) monitor progress in achieving relevant national and state health objectives and National Education Goals; and (4) local and state education agencies can use results to obtain grants for programs and services.
- **Will these surveys cause students to initiate or increase high-risk behaviors?** Students are exposed regularly to information about tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, violence, and sexuality through their school curricula, the media, parents, friends, and community organizations. Exposure to a small number of questions on any one topic is not likely to cause a significant change in behavior-either good or bad. No evidence links these surveys to subsequent suicide attempts among respondents.
- **How is student privacy and anonymity protected?** Survey administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. The student completes the survey in complete anonymity, and no personal identifiers are recorded anywhere that could link a student to a survey form. Additionally, participation is voluntary and no student is required to participate.
- **Do students answer the questions truthfully?** Research indicates data of this nature may be gathered as reliably from adolescents as from adults. Internal reliability checks help identify the small percentage of students who falsify their answers. To obtain truthful answers, students must perceive the survey as important and know that procedures have been developed to protect their privacy and allow for anonymous participation.
- **Who uses the survey results?** Statewide survey results lend to the augmentation and refinement of prevention and intervention programs with adolescent populations. From local school districts to state and Municipal agencies such as the EED, DHSS, Department of Transportation, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Corrections, and Department of Public Safety; survey results are used in a variety of arenas. The Alaska State Legislature and the Office of the Governor also have utilized the findings of previous surveys for programmatic purposes.

Other Benefits to schools and communities:

- Provide data to monitor and evaluate the impact of the 1997 Alaska Tobacco Tax
- Monitor progress in achieving the National Education Goal that focuses on safe, disciplined, and drug-free schools.
- Support local school districts in assessment, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive school health programs.
- Set Priorities for statewide comprehensive school health education teacher training and instructional programs.
- Identify self-reported behaviors among youth, which put them at greatest risk for early morbidity and mortality.
- Provide comparable data between state and national results.
- Monitor progress in achieving Healthy Alaskan 2010 objectives.
- Support state policy development, evaluation, and/or revision.
- Provide the state with the most reliable and valid instrument available to assess risk behaviors.

Methodology for Collecting a Valid and Reliable Youth Risk Behavior Sample: Resulting Efforts of the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

In January of 2001, the YRBS high school sample was drawn. The high school sample included 36 schools from 19 districts and sought 1,480 completed questionnaires. The goal was to get a level of participation from both schools and students to achieve an overall response rate of 60% or greater. Twenty-four schools participated, resulting in 637 completed survey responses, far short of the 1,480. The overall response rate for 2001 was 29%. This is far short of the 60% overall rate needed to have weighted or representative data. To provide a comparison, the 1999 YRBS response rate was 66%.

Additionally, all school districts were invited to participate at the local level to collect local district level data to compare to state and national data. In previous years, more than 25 of the 53 school districts participated and received the surveys, scanning and data analysis free of charge. Of those districts, 22 received weighted data. In 2001, however, only 14 districts chose to participate. Several Districts who declined to participate confided it was because of the active parental consent law.

Of the 14 districts that participated at the local level, only four received "weighted" or useable data, and of those four, only one had more than one *school* in the district. Additionally, the multi-school district that did receive weighted data said that they would not participate again (with active consent) as it was a huge undertaking. That district mailed consent letters and explanations of the data collection process via US mail as well as sending copies home with students. When the return rate was low, they sent out another letter and augmented that effort with phone calls to parents. That effort raised the return rate, but was still short of what was necessary. At that point, they utilized village school aides to visit homes and try to get the slips signed. That final effort brought the return rate to 90%.

Other school districts made similar efforts to collect signed parental permission slips. The following is a summary of what districts around the state did during the school year of 2000 -2001 to collect enough parental permission slips to obtain weighted data YRBS data.

1. Several districts had permission slips available at registration for parents to sign. Although this worked well in some districts, many districts do not require the parent to be present at registration to activate the student for the year. Therefore, many districts fell short of reaching all parents with method.
2. Another venue that districts used to collect additional permission slips was at the fall parent/teacher conferences. Again, this was successful for some districts, especially small districts, but for larger ones it was not as successful.
3. In January, after the State YRBS sample had been drawn, many districts were still trying to collect parental permission slips. After notification of inclusion in the State sample, many of those districts sent out an additional letter to parents. By the end of February, the return rates for parental permission slips were still quite low in most districts. We offered to assist districts in their efforts by providing money for additional mailings. All districts refused our offer of funds, but did send out additional letters to parents and in some cases two additional letters. Additionally, several districts tried to increase their return rates by contacting parents by phone, and in some cases, in person.
4. Lastly, many districts used incentives to try to increase the return rates of permission slips. In some cases, these incentives cost the district money from already stretched program budgets.

Literature Review

Passive vs Active Parental Consent –How Does the Chosen Methodology Effect Parental Rights and Does it Influence the Quality of the Data Collected?

The purpose of this literature review is to specifically answer the following questions:

- 1) what does the research say about parental rights when **passive** consent is the chosen parental consent methodology,
- 2) what are the costs of active versus passive consent, and
- 3) what are the effects of **active** consent procedures on scientific validity and reliability of the data.

The following, summarizes and synthesizes the information collected in this literature search.

DEFINITIONS

Ellickson and Hawes (1989), define active and passive parental consent as follows:

- 1) **Passive parental consent:** A letter is sent home to parents informing them of the selection of their child in the sample as well as detailing information regarding the survey. Parents must send back a signed *exclusion* form, or directly inform the principal at their child's school if they **DO NOT** want their child to participate in the survey. Otherwise, parental consent is implied.
- 2) **Active parental consent:** A letter is sent to parents describing the survey and informing them of the selection of their child in the sample. Parents must send back a signed parental consent form **BEFORE** their child can participate in the survey. Under active parental consent procedures, parents who do not return a permission slip, as well as those individuals who indicate on the form that they do not want their child to participate in the survey are treated as parental refusals. The above definitions appear to be consistent through out the literature.

IS PASSIVE CONSENT "CONSENT"

A key issue in the passive consent debate revolves around the number of parents who would have refused if active consent had been used. Ellickson and Hawes. (1989) through extensive follow-up with parents from both active and passive consent procedures. found that failure to return a form is considerably more likely to reflect latent consent than latent refusal. Specifically, Ellickson and Hawes found that when parents who were informed via passive consent were asked about their decision for their child to participate or not, the great majority of parents (87%) said that yes, they had received the materials, understood them, and decided to allow their child to participate. Research indicates that carefully designed passive consent methods can avoid the negative consequences of active consent while ensuring that parents receive the consent materials, pay attention to them, and have sufficient time to refuse participation. Additionally, Catalona (1994) also found failure to return a signed active consent form is more likely to reflect apathy or inertia than objection to the research. Strasburger (1998) believes active parental consent requires overly stringent informed consent procedures, especially when applied to **anonymous confidential surveys**.

COST OF ACTIVE CONSENT VERSUS PASSIVE CONSENT

In a study of two schools, Ellickson and Hawes (1989) examined refusal rate associated with active and passive consent procedures. They found that in the school requiring passive consent 93% of the students participated, compared to 86% in the schools requiring active consent. One might assume that 86% participation is quite good for active consent, but it came at a high cost in terms of time and money. Three mailings, at least two follow-up phone calls to all non-respondents, two special parent meetings and daily reminders by classroom teacher to students to return their forms were the efforts needed to obtain an 86% participation rate. Ellickson and Hawes estimated that for a sample of 7,500 students, active consent would cost

\$112,500 and require a minimum of 20 interviewers working full time for 3 weeks to obtain the 86% participation rate. It is important to note that the estimated cost of \$112,500 was calculated in 1987, and it is with certainty that those costs would be much higher today.

SCIENTIFIC VALIDITY

Researchers who have used active consent report that it yields unacceptably low response rates (50-60%) and underrepresentation of important groups—Blacks, Asian Americans, low achievers, students with less well-educated parents, and those at risk for engaging in high risk or problem behaviors (Kearney 1983, and Anderman, Cheadle, Curry, Diehr, Shultz, Wagner, 1995). Conversely, passive consent procedures can garner response rates of 80-96% (Severson and Biglan 1989; Murry and Hannan 1990; Landis and Janes 1995). Low response rates and sample bias under active consent procedures have been and continue to be problematic in terms of collecting quality data that is generalizable and representative of the population. Although these methodological concerns can be reduced through researchers' efforts and diligence, the cost and personnel efforts required can be prohibitive (Ellikson and Hawes 1989; Kearney et al. 1983).

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Education & Early Development
Office of the Commissioner

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

Goldbelt Place
801 West Tenth Street, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1894
(907) 465-2800
(907) 465-4156 Fax

FAX TRANSMITTAL INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: February 13, 2002

TIME: 3:38 PM

TO: **Name:** Karen McCarthy
 Agency/Office: Rep. Bunde
 Fax Number: (907) 465-3871
 Comments: This is a document that was produced in 1999 and has not
 been revised yet for the current conversation. What is
 important is the second bullet on page 2 regarding FERPA.
 Please call with any questions!

FROM: **Name:** Terri Campbell
 Office Number: (907) 465-8731
 Fax Number: (907) 465-4156
 Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 5

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

WHY DOES DOE WANT TO DO THE YRBS IN ALASKA? WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE?

The YRBS assists the DOE and school districts throughout the state in reaching the Quality School Initiatives. The following are areas that are addressed through completion of the survey.

High Student Academic Standards and Assessment	Quality Professional Standards	School Excellence Standards	Family, School, Business and Community Network
Provide information that will assist school districts in shaping programs, services and referrals that provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthier choices. Healthier, safer students are better able to attend to other areas of instruction, including RWM, thus improving academic achievement.	Provides schools with the information necessary to implement/augment professional development opportunities for teachers surrounding current health education "best practices". Understanding what the problems are will assist districts in creating professional opportunities to educate teachers in addressing these problems successfully.	Assist schools and districts in planning and providing for safer and healthier school environments for students and staff.	Assist parents, schools and communities identify and address issues pertinent to student health and well being. By providing information, all concerned groups can address and support improved educational efforts to address the failing health and safety of students in their districts.

Other strengths for participation in the YRBS:

- Monitor progress in achieving the National Education Goal that focuses on safe, disciplined, and drug-free schools.
- Support local school districts in assessment, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive school health programs *at no charge to the district.*
- Focus statewide comprehensive school health education teacher training and instructional programs.
- Focus the state on behaviors among youth causing the most important health problems. Provide comparable data between state and national results.
- Monitor progress in achieving Healthy Alaskan 2000 objectives.
- Support state policy development, evaluation, and/or revision.
- Provides the state with the most reliable and valid instrument available to assess risk behaviors.

What the Alaska Department of Education can do to support the YRBS:

1. Become familiar with the purpose and "hot" questions surrounding the YRBS.
2. Look at the Alaska Law regulating family related questions the Attorney General's interpretation.
3. Consider issuing a statement from the Department of Education outlining position on what is family related information.
4. Issue a statement in support of the YRBS from the Commissioner's office.
5. Ask the State Board of Education to issue a position supporting the use of the YRBS.
6. Communicate with the Office of the Governor regarding the importance/purpose of the YRBS.
7. Review the cooperative agreement signed between the DOE and DHSS (enclosed) and review responsibilities agreed upon.

YRBS General Talking Points/Frequently Asked Questions.

- **How will education agencies and schools benefit from conducting the YRBS?** Results can be used to help focus programs and policies for HIV prevention education, comprehensive school health education, school safety education and policy as well as drug and violence prevention education. Results from the survey can also be used to (1) monitor how priority health risk behaviors among high school students (grades 9-12) increase, decrease or remain the same over time; (2) evaluate the impact of broad national, state, and local efforts to prevent health-risk behaviors; (3) monitor progress in achieving relevant national and state health objectives and National Education Goals.
- **Does the YRBS contradict the Protection of Pupil Rights (also known as the Buckley Amendment) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)?** Each of these federal laws is specific in its protection of student's rights and privacy when information is part of a student's educational record or when a student is required to participate in a project where personal information is revealed. Both are tied to the United States Department of Education and are relevant to any survey conducted and paid for with those funds. The US DOE neither conducts the YRBS nor are USDOE funds used to pay the expense of the survey. Additionally, these laws relate to surveys that are *required* and when *the results will be placed in the student's record*. Neither is the case with the YRBS. Schools who choose to participate in the YRBS are not in violation of federal laws protecting student's rights and privacy because the YRBS is anonymous and voluntary.
- **What is the focus of the YRBS?** The survey focus on priority health risk behaviors established during youth that result in the most significant mortality and morbidity during both youth and adulthood. The behaviors included are ones that the student has complete choice when making (i.e. no questions are asked about genetic predisposition, handicapping situations, etc). They include behaviors that (1) result in unintentional and intentional injuries; (2) tobacco use; (3) alcohol and other drug use; (4) sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases (STD's), and unintended pregnancies; (5) dietary behaviors; and (6) physical activity.
- **Will this survey cause students to initiate or increase high risk behaviors?** The causes and determinants of health-risk behaviors are very complex. Students are exposed regularly to information about tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, violence, and sexuality through their school curricula, the media, parents, friends, and community organizations. Exposure to a small number of questions on any one topic is not likely to cause a significant change in behavior-either good or bad. Because suicide is the third leading cause of death among adolescents, it is particularly important to ask questions about suicide-related behaviors. Suicide questions have been asked in previous school based surveys of adolescents. No evidence links these surveys to subsequent suicide attempts among respondents.
- **Is student participation anonymous? How is student privacy protected?** Survey administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. Students submit a completely optically scannable questionnaire booklet containing no personal identifiers. Additionally, Alaska provides manila envelopes for students to seal their survey in, as an extra measure of confidentiality.
- **Do students answer the questions truthfully?** Research indicates data of this nature may be gathered as reliably from adolescents as from adults. Internal reliability checks help identify the small percentage of students who falsify their answers. To obtain truthful answers, students must perceive the survey as important and know that procedures have been developed to protect their privacy and allow for anonymous participation.
- **Who supports the YRBS?** Both nationally and state wide, the survey results lend to the augmentation and refinement of prevention and intervention programs with adolescent populations. From local school districts to state agencies such as the DOE, DHSS, Department of Transportation, Department of criminal justice, Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety, the survey results have offered several years of pertinent and relevant information. The Alaska State Legislature and the Office of the Governor also have utilized the findings of this survey for programmatic purposes.

CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG YOUTH AGES 5-24 YEARS: (NATION WIDE)

- Motor vehicle crash - 28%
- Other unintentional injury - 11%
- Homicide - 21%
- Suicide - 12%
- All other causes - 28%

CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG YOUTH AGES 5-24 YEARS: (ALASKA SPECIFIC, 1995)

- Motor vehicle crash - 26%
- Other unintentional injury - 33%
- Homicide - 7%
- Suicide - 17%
- All other causes - 17%

**** Vast differences in Other unintentional injury may result from reporting classification, increased death specifically related to subsistence living (i.e., fishing/drowning, gun shots not related to homicide etc.)**

GOALS 2000: EDUCATE AMERICA ACT

MARCH 21, 1994.—Ordered to be printed

SEC. 1017. PROTECTION OF PUPILS.

Section 439 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) is amended to read as follows:

"PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS

"SEC. 439. (a) All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary material which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any applicable program shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the children.

"(b) No student shall be required, as part of any applicable program, to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning—

"(1) political affiliations;

"(2) mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his family;

"(3) sex behavior and attitudes;

"(4) illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;

"(5) critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;

"(6) legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or

"(7) income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program),

without the prior consent of the student (if the student is an adult or emancipated minor), or in the case of an unemancipated minor, without the prior written consent of the parent.

"(c) Educational agencies and institutions shall give parents and students effective notice of their rights under this section.

"(d) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall take such action as the Secretary determines appropriate to enforce this section, except that action to terminate assistance provided under an applicable program shall be taken only if the Secretary determines that—

"(1) there has been a failure to comply with such section;

and

"(2) compliance with such section cannot be secured by voluntary means.

"(e) OFFICE AND REVIEW BOARD—The Secretary shall establish or designate an office and review board within the Department of Education to investigate, process, review, and adjudicate violations of the rights established under this section."

1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results

Alaska (Excluding Anchorage) High School Survey

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q1. How old are you?			
1	12 years old or younger	2	0.1
2	13 years old	3	0.2
3	14 years old	164	9.7
4	15 years old	433	27.4
5	16 years old	412	28.4
6	17 years old	249	20.4
7	18 years old or older	149	13.8
	Missing	15	
Q2. What is your sex?			
1	Female	696	47.5
2	Male	710	52.5
	Missing	21	
Q3. In what grade are you?			
1	9th grade	522	31.7
2	10th grade	374	25.8
3	11th grade	307	21.8
4	12th grade	205	20.5
5	Ungraded or other grade	2	0.1
	Missing	17	
Q4. How do you describe yourself? (Select one or more responses.)			
1	American Indian/Alaska Native	237	16.7
2	Asian	25	1.9
3	Black or African American	41	2.8
4	Hispanic or Latino	30	2.4
5	Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	12	0.9
6	White	987	70.3
7	Multiple - Hispanic	15	1
8	Multiple - Non-Hispanic	58	4.2
	Missing	22	
Q5. Height in meters			
Q6. Weight in kilograms			

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q7. When you rode a motorcycle during the past 12 months, how often did you wear a helmet?			
1	Did not ride a motorcycle	964	66.8
2	Never	106	8
3	Rarely	28	2.1
4	Sometimes	41	3.1
5	Most of the time	69	5
6	Always	210	15.1
	Missing	9	
Q8. When you rode a bicycle during the past 12 months, how often did you wear a helmet?			
1	Did not ride a bicycle	253	18.4
2	Never	859	61.8
3	Rarely	102	6.8
4	Sometimes	64	4
5	Most of the time	77	5.1
6	Always	62	3.8
	Missing	10	
Q9. How often do you wear a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else?			
1	Never	105	7.4
2	Rarely	169	11.9
3	Sometimes	238	16.5
4	Most of the time	428	30.3
5	Always	479	33.8
	Missing		
Q10. During the past 30 days, how many times did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?			
1	0 times	1,007	69.9
2	1 time	146	11.2
3	2 or 3 times	147	10.3
4	4 or 5 times	33	2.5
5	6 or more times	82	6
	Missing	12	
Q11. During the past 30 days, how many times did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking alcohol?			
1	0 times	1,231	86.1
2	1 time	63	4.7
3	2 or 3 times	55	4.2
4	4 or 5 times	22	1.7
5	6 or more times	44	3.2
	Missing	12	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q12. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club?			
1	0 days	1,078	76.6
2	1 day	46	3.2
3	2 or 3 days	69	5.2
4	4 or 5 days	23	1.7
5	6 or more days	175	13.3
	Missing	36	

Q13. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a gun?

1	0 days	1,300	92.1
2	1 day	32	2.3
3	2 or 3 days	28	2.1
4	4 or 5 days	7	0.5
5	6 or more days	38	3
	Missing	22	

Q14. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?

1	0 days	1,253	88.6
2	1 day	26	1.9
3	2 or 3 days	25	1.9
4	4 or 5 days	7	0.5
5	6 or more days	97	7.2
	Missing	19	

Q15. During the past 30 days, how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?

1	0 days	1,373	96.3
2	1 day	19	1.3
3	2 or 3 days	11	0.7
4	4 or 5 days	6	0.4
5	6 or more days	17	1.3
	Missing	1	

Q16. During the past 12 months, how many times has someone threatened or injured you with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?

1	0 times	1,298	90.8
2	1 time	54	3.9
3	2 or 3 times	21	1.5
4	4 or 5 times	6	0.4
5	6 or 7 times	3	0.2
6	8 or 9 times	7	0.6
7	10 or 11 times	2	0.1
8	12 or more times	35	2.5
	Missing	1	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q17. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?			
1	0 times	934	65.8
2	1 time	189	13.7
3	2 or 3 times	154	11.1
4	4 or 5 times	37	2.6
5	6 or 7 times	21	1.6
6	8 or 9 times	14	1.1
7	10 or 11 times	4	0.3
8	12 or more times	55	3.9
	Missing	19	
Q18. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight in which you were injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?			
1	0 times	1,353	95.5
2	1 time	36	2.5
3	2 or 3 times	5	0.4
4	4 or 5 times	4	0.3
5	6 or more times	18	1.3
	Missing	11	
Q19. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?			
1	0 times	1,192	84.1
2	1 time	128	9.3
3	2 or 3 times	46	3.1
4	4 or 5 times	13	0.9
5	6 or 7 times	5	0.3
6	8 or 9 times	3	0.3
7	10 or 11 times	1	0.1
8	12 or more times	24	1.9
	Missing	15	
Q20. During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?			
1	Yes	142	10.5
2	No	1,282	89.5
	Missing	3	
Q21. Have you ever been forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?			
1	Yes	140	10
2	No	1,277	90
	Missing	10	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q22. During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?			
1	Yes	346	24.3
2	No	1,079	75.7
	Missing	2	
Q23. During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?			
1	Yes	272	18.5
2	No	1,133	81.5
	Missing	22	
Q24. During the past 12 months, did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?			
1	Yes	224	15.5
2	No	1,201	84.5
	Missing	2	
Q25. During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?			
1	0 times	1,187	92.3
2	1 time	54	3.9
3	2 or 3 times	33	2.3
4	4 or 5 times	3	0.2
5	6 or more times	17	1.4
	Missing	133	
Q26. If you attempted suicide during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?			
1	Did not attempt suicide	1,181	91.4
2	Yes	36	2.7
3	No	83	5.9
	Missing	127	
Q27. Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?			
1	Yes	991	71.5
2	No	415	28.5
	Missing	21	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q28. How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?			
1	Never smoked a cigarette	532	37.6
2	8 years old or younger	103	7.8
3	9 or 10 years old	117	8.2
4	11 or 12 years old	238	17
5	13 or 14 years old	275	19.9
6	15 or 16 years old	100	7.4
7	17 years old or older	20	2
	Missing	42	
Q29. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?			
1	0 days	929	66.1
2	1 or 2 days	91	6.8
3	3 to 5 days	41	2.8
4	6 to 9 days	33	2.4
5	10 to 19 days	50	3.7
6	20 to 29 days	64	4.5
7	All 30 days	178	13.6
	Missing	41	
Q30. During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?			
1	Did not smoke	929	65.8
2	Less than 1 per day	74	5.4
3	1 cigarette per day	69	5
4	2 to 5 cigarettes per day	203	14.5
5	6 to 10 cigarettes per day	69	5.4
6	11 to 20 cigarettes per day	24	2
7	More than 20 per day	25	1.9
	Missing	34	
Q31. During the past 30 days, how did you usually get your own cigarettes?			
1	Did not smoke cigarettes	930	66.4
2	Store	42	3.4
3	Vending machine	1	0.1
4	Someone else bought them	160	11.9
5	Borrowed them	150	11.1
6	Stole them	27	1.9
7	Some other way	73	5.3
	Missing	44	
Q32. When you bought cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days, were you ever asked to show proof of age?			
1	Did not buy cigarettes	1,276	88.9
2	Yes	53	4.4
3	No	93	6.7
	Missing	5	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q33. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes on school property?			
1	0 days	1,223	86.8
2	1 or 2 days	63	4.4
3	3 to 5 days	30	2.1
4	6 to 9 days	29	2.2
5	10 to 19 days	12	0.8
6	20 to 29 days	10	0.7
7	All 30 days	40	3
	Missing	20	

Q34. Have you ever smoked cigarettes regularly, that is, at least one cigarette every day for 30 days?

1	Yes	385	28.5
2	No	1,019	71.5
	Missing	23	

Q35. Have you ever tried to quit smoking cigarettes?

1	Yes	482	36.2
2	No	866	63.8
	Missing	79	

Q36. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco or snuff, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, or Copenhagen?

1	0 days	1,198	84.6
2	1 or 2 days	69	5
3	3 to 5 days	30	2.2
4	6 to 9 days	20	1.6
5	10 to 19 days	23	1.6
6	20 to 29 days	14	1.1
7	All 30 days	54	4.1
	Missing	19	

Q37. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco or snuff on school property?

1	0 days	1,276	90.1
2	1 or 2 days	40	3.1
3	3 to 5 days	18	1.2
4	6 to 9 days	17	1.2
5	10 to 19 days	11	0.9
6	20 to 29 days	10	0.8
7	All 30 days	36	2.8
	Missing	19	

Youth Risk Behavior Survey-1999

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q38. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars?			
1	0 days	1,265	88.3
2	1 or 2 days	91	6.8
3	3 to 5 days	31	2.2
4	6 to 9 days	9	0.7
5	10 to 19 days	3	0.2
6	20 to 29 days	2	0.2
7	All 30 days	21	1.6
	Missing	5	
Q39. During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?			
1	0 days	275	19.8
2	1 or 2 days	149	10.7
3	3 to 9 days	224	16.6
4	10 to 19 days	154	11.7
5	20 to 39 days	145	11.1
6	40 to 99 days	153	12.6
7	100 or more days	215	17.5
	Missing	112	
Q40. How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?			
1	Never drank alcohol	272	19.5
2	8 years old or younger	147	11.4
3	9 or 10 years old	119	9.1
4	11 or 12 years old	182	13.5
5	13 or 14 years old	392	29.3
6	15 or 16 years old	192	15.5
7	17 years old or older	18	1.7
	Missing	105	
Q41. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?			
1	0 days	749	53.1
2	1 or 2 days	267	19.3
3	3 to 5 days	160	11.8
4	6 to 9 days	105	8.4
5	10 to 19 days	55	4.4
6	20 to 29 days	17	1.2
7	All 30 days	24	1.9
	Missing	50	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q42. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?			
1	0 days	942	65.6
2	1 day	134	10.1
3	2 days	102	7.3
4	3 to 5 days	103	7.7
5	6 to 9 days	72	5.6
6	10 to 19 days	25	1.9
7	20 or more days	22	1.8
	Missing	27	

Q43. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol on school property?

1	0 days	1,326	93.7
2	1 or 2 days	53	3.6
3	3 to 5 days	11	0.8
4	6 to 9 days	3	0.2
5	10 to 19 days	7	0.6
6	20 to 29 days	1	0.1
7	All 30 days	14	1.1
	Missing	12	

Q44. During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?

1	0 times	635	42.9
2	1 or 2 times	146	10.6
3	3 to 9 times	141	10.4
4	10 to 19 times	77	5.7
5	20 to 39 times	85	5.9
6	40 to 99 times	81	6.1
7	100 or more times	239	18.3
	Missing	23	

Q45. How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?

1	Never tried marijuana	635	42.7
2	8 years old or younger	55	4.2
3	9 or 10 years old	41	2.9
4	11 or 12 years old	142	9.9
5	13 or 14 years old	359	26.2
6	15 or 16 years old	159	12.2
7	17 years old or older	20	1.9
	Missing	16	

Youth Risk Behavior Survey-1999

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q46. During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?			
1	0 times	991	69.3
2	1 or 2 times	123	9
3	3 to 9 times	97	6.9
4	10 to 19 times	62	4.5
5	20 to 39 times	46	3.5
6	40 or more times	87	6.8
	Missing	21	
Q47. During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana on school property?			
1	0 times	1,285	91
2	1 or 2 times	41	3
3	3 to 9 times	35	2.6
4	10 to 19 times	19	1.4
5	20 to 39 times	2	0.1
6	40 or more times	26	1.9
	Missing	19	
Q48. During your life, how many times have you used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?			
1	0 times	1,295	91.2
2	1 or 2 times	45	3.5
3	3 to 9 times	23	1.7
4	10 to 19 times	12	1
5	20 to 39 times	7	0.5
6	40 or more times	28	2.1
	Missing	17	
Q49. During the past 30 days, how many times did you use any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?			
1	0 times	1,354	95.9
2	1 or 2 times	21	1.7
3	3 to 9 times	10	0.7
4	10 to 19 times	2	0.2
5	20 to 39 times	3	0.2
6	40 or more times	18	1.3
	Missing	19	
Q50. During your life, how many times have you sniffed glue, or breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?			
1	0 times	1,213	85.5
2	1 or 2 times	98	7
3	3 to 9 times	46	3.4
4	10 to 19 times	20	1.5
5	20 to 39 times	12	0.8
6	40 or more times	28	1.9
	Missing	10	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q51. During the past 30 days, how many times have you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?			
1	0 times	1,353	95.7
2	1 or 2 times	25	1.6
3	3 to 9 times	17	1.2
4	10 to 19 times	6	0.4
5	20 to 39 times	2	0.1
6	40 or more times	12	0.9
	Missing	12	
Q52. During your life, how many times have you used heroin (also called smack, junk, or China White)?			
1	0 times	1,371	96.1
2	1 or 2 times	17	1.4
3	3 to 9 times	6	0.5
4	10 to 19 times	4	0.3
5	20 to 39 times	6	0.5
6	40 or more times	17	1.2
	Missing	6	
Q53. During your life, how many times have you used methamphetamines (also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice)?			
1	0 times	1,277	89.1
2	1 or 2 times	67	4.9
3	3 to 9 times	23	1.8
4	10 to 19 times	19	1.5
5	20 to 39 times	8	0.6
6	40 or more times	27	2
	Missing	6	
Q54. During your life, how many times have you taken steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription?			
1	0 times	1,357	95
2	1 or 2 times	26	1.9
3	3 to 9 times	14	1.1
4	10 to 19 times	5	0.3
5	20 to 39 times	5	0.5
6	40 or more times	16	1.2
	Missing	4	
Q55. During your life, how many times have you used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body?			
1	0 times	1,377	96.5
2	1 time	18	1.5
3	2 or more times	27	2
	Missing	5	

Youth Risk Behavior Survey-1999

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q56. During the past 12 months, has anyone offered, sold, or given you an illegal drug on school property?			
1	Yes	402	29
2	No	1,014	71
	Missing	11	
Q57. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?			
1	Yes	564	43.3
2	No	809	56.7
	Missing	54	
Q58. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?			
1	Never had sexual intercourse	808	56.7
2	11 years old or younger	56	4.1
3	12 years old	40	2.9
4	13 years old	85	6.3
5	14 years old	133	9.8
6	15 years old	138	10.4
7	16 years old	75	6.2
8	17 years old or older	37	3.6
	Missing	55	
Q59. During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?			
1	Never had sexual intercourse	806	56.7
2	1 person	203	15.7
3	2 people	97	7.2
4	3 people	82	6.3
5	4 people	54	4.1
6	5 people	23	1.8
7	6 or more people	102	8.2
	Missing	60	
Q60. During the past three months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?			
1	Never had sexual intercourse	807	56.7
2	None during past 3 months	220	16.4
3	1 person	251	19.9
4	2 people	45	3.4
5	3 people	15	1.2
6	4 people	3	0.2
7	5 people	1	0.1
8	6 or more people	27	2.1
	Missing	58	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q61. Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time?			
1	Never had sexual intercourse	808	56.6
2	Yes	179	13.7
3	No	387	29.7
	Missing	53	
Q62. The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?			
1	Never had sexual intercourse	804	56.9
2	Yes	353	26.5
3	No	204	16.6
	Missing	66	
Q63. The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy?			
1	Never had sexual intercourse	808	57.6
2	No method was used	82	6.4
3	Birth control pills	6	5.6
4	Condoms	286	21.6
5	Depo-Provera	30	2.4
6	Withdrawal	49	4.1
7	Some other method	10	0.8
8	Not sure	21	1.5
	Missing	75	
Q64. How many times have you been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant?			
1	0 times	1,316	93.2
2	1 time	42	3.3
3	2 or more times	16	1.2
4	Not sure	30	2.3
	Missing	23	
Q65. How do you describe your weight?			
1	Very underweight	26	1.8
2	Slightly underweight	185	13.2
3	About the right weight	745	52.3
4	Slightly overweight	409	29
5	Very overweight	53	3.7
	Missing	9	
Q66. Which of the following are you trying to do about your weight?			
1	Lose weight	614	42.6
2	Gain weight	217	16.2
3	Stay the same weight	219	15.3
4	Not trying to do anything	366	25.9
	Missing	11	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q67. During the past 30 days, did you exercise to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?			
1	Yes	814	57.3
2	No	594	42.7
	Missing	19	
Q68. During the past 30 days, did you eat less food, fewer calories, or foods low in fat to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?			
1	Yes	576	40.1
2	No	841	59.9
	Missing	10	
Q69. During the past 30 days, did you go without eating for 24 hours or more (also called fasting) to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?			
1	Yes	177	11.9
2	No	1,235	88.1
	Missing	15	
Q70. During the past 30 days, did you take any diet pills, powders, or liquids without a doctor's advice to lose weight?			
1	Yes	101	7.1
2	No	1,313	92.9
	Missing	13	
Q71. During the past 30 days, did you vomit or take laxatives to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?			
1	Yes	76	5.2
2	No	1,338	94.8
	Missing	13	
Q72. During the past seven days, how many times did you drink 100% fruit juices such as orange juice, apple juice, or grape juice?			
1	Not during the past 7 days	216	15.4
2	1 to 3 times past 7 days	447	31.8
3	4 to 6 times past 7 days	290	20.2
4	1 time per day	123	8.8
5	2 times per day	155	10.8
6	3 times per day	101	7
7	4 or more times per day	83	6.1
	Missing	12	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q73. During the past seven days, how many times did you eat fruit?			
1	Not during the past 7 days	134	9.4
2	1 to 3 times past 7 days	485	35
3	4 to 6 times past 7 days	329	23
4	1 time per day	169	11.9
5	2 times per day	162	11.3
6	3 times per day	76	5.5
7	4 or more times per day	56	4
	Missing	16	

Q74. During the past seven days, how many times did you eat green salad?

1	Not during the past 7 days	394	27.6
2	1 to 3 times past 7 days	609	42.8
3	4 to 6 times past 7 days	207	14.8
4	1 time per day	136	9.7
5	2 times per day	39	3
6	3 times per day	6	0.5
7	4 or more times per day	23	1.7
	Missing	13	

Q75. During the past seven days, how many times did you eat potatoes?

1	Not during the past 7 days	344	23.5
2	1 to 3 times past 7 days	754	53.6
3	4 to 6 times past 7 days	206	14.7
4	1 time per day	70	5.1
5	2 times per day	21	1.6
6	3 times per day	6	0.5
7	4 or more times per day	16	1.1
	Missing	10	

Q76. During the past seven days, how many times did you eat carrots?

1	Not during the past 7 days	551	38.8
2	1 to 3 times past 7 days	594	42.1
3	4 to 6 times past 7 days	154	10.7
4	1 time per day	71	5.2
5	2 times per day	22	1.6
6	3 times per day	9	0.6
7	4 or more times per day	15	1
	Missing	11	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q77. During the past seven days, how many times did you eat other vegetables?			
1	Not during the past 7 days	171	12.2
2	1 to 3 times past 7 days	551	39.3
3	4 to 6 times past 7 days	354	24.3
4	1 time per day	186	13.2
5	2 times per day	96	7.1
6	3 times per day	26	1.8
7	4 or more times per day	30	2.1
	Missing	13	

Q78. During the past seven days, how many glasses of milk did you drink?

1	Not during the past 7 days	158	11.3
2	1 to 3 glasses past 7 days	266	18.5
3	4 to 6 glasses past 7 days	257	18.2
4	1 glass per day	186	13.1
5	2 glasses per day	242	16.8
6	3 glasses per day	152	11.3
7	4 or more glasses per day	151	10.8
	Missing	15	

Q79. On how many of the past seven days did you exercise or participate in physical activities for at least 20 minutes that made you sweat and breathe hard?

1	0 days	182	13.1
2	1 day	88	5.9
3	2 days	131	9.2
4	3 days	174	12.3
5	4 days	149	10.6
6	5 days	220	15.5
7	6 days	136	9.9
8	7 days	337	23.5
	Missing	10	

Q80. On how many of the past seven days did you participate in physical activity for at least 30 minutes that did not make you sweat or breathe hard?

1	0 days	402	28
2	1 day	153	10.5
3	2 days	179	13
4	3 days	170	11.7
5	4 days	116	8.2
6	5 days	91	6.6
7	6 days	44	3.4
8	7 days	261	18.7
	Missing	11	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q81. On how many of the past seven days did you do exercises to strengthen or tone your muscles, such as push-ups, sit-ups, or weight lifting?			
1	0 days	288	20.6
2	1 day	122	8.4
3	2 days	152	10.9
4	3 days	192	13.6
5	4 days	166	11.4
6	5 days	182	12.9
7	6 days	88	6.4
8	7 days	224	15.9
	Missing	13	

Q82. On an average school day, how many hours do you watch TV?

1	No TV on average school day	151	11
2	Less than 1 hour per day	238	17
3	1 hour per day	227	16.2
4	2 hours per day	329	23.1
5	3 hours per day	236	16.9
6	4 hours per day	112	8.1
7	5 or more hours per day	114	7.7
	Missing	20	

Q83. In an average week when you are in school, on how many days do you go to physical education (PE) classes?

1	0 days	638	49.6
2	1 day	8	0.6
3	2 days	10	0.8
4	3 days	102	7.7
5	4 days	280	19.8
6	5 days	284	21.5
	Missing	105	

Q84. During an average physical education (PE) class, how many minutes do you spend actually exercising or playing sports?

1	Do not take PE	638	49.6
2	Less than 10 minutes	21	1.5
3	10 to 20 minutes	59	4.1
4	21 to 30 minutes	107	7.9
5	More than 30 minutes	497	37
	Missing	105	

Q85. During the past 12 months, on how many sports teams did you play?

1	0 teams	479	34
2	1 team	336	23.8
3	2 teams	288	20.3
4	3 or more teams	313	21.8
	Missing	11	

		Unweighted (N)	Weighted (Percent)
Q86. During the past 12 months, how many times were you injured while exercising, playing sports, or being physically active and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?			
1	0 times	781	55.4
2	1 time	299	21.1
3	2 times	189	13.5
4	3 times	70	4.8
5	4 times	19	1.3
6	5 or more times	55	4
	Missing	14	

Q87. Have you ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school?

1	Yes	1,254	88.5
2	No	86	6.3
3	Not sure	76	5.2
	Missing	11	

**1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results
Alaska (Excluding Anchorage) Middle School Survey**

		Unweighted (N)	Unweighted (Percent)
Q1. How old are you?			
1	10 years old or younger	1	0.1
2	11 years old	6	0.6
3	12 years old	106	10.9
4	13 years old	422	43.3
5	14 years old	409	42
6	15 years old	24	2.5
7	16 years old or older	6	0.6
	Missing	1	
Q2. What is your sex?			
1	Female	493	50.9
2	Male	475	49.1
	Missing	7	
Q3. In what grade are you?			
1	6th grade	12	1.2
2	7th grade	349	36.2
3	8th grade	596	61.8
4	Other	7	0.7
	Missing	11	
Q4. How do you describe yourself?			
1	American Indian or Alaska Native	251	26.4
2	Asian	16	1.7
3	Black or African American	14	1.5
4	Hispanic or Latino	13	1.4
5	Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	8	0.8
6	White	576	60.7
7	Multiple - Hispanic	7	0.7
8	Multiple - Non-Hispanic	64	6.7
	Missing	26	
Q5. Height in meters			
Q6. Weight in kilograms			
Q7. How often do you wear a seat belt when riding in a car?			
1	Never	87	9
2	Rarely	109	11.2
3	Sometimes	208	21.5
4	Most of the time	305	31.5
5	Always	260	26.8
	Missing	6	

		Unweighted (N)	Unweighted (Percent)
Q8. When you ride a bicycle, how often do you wear a helmet?			
1	Do not ride a bicycle	60	6.2
2	Never	556	57.5
3	Rarely	140	14.5
4	Sometimes	80	8.3
5	Most of the time	88	9.1
6	Always	43	4.4
	Missing	8	
Q9. When you rollerblade or ride a skateboard, how often do you wear a helmet?			
1	Do not rollerblade/skateboard	348	35.9
2	Never	419	43.2
3	Rarely	76	7.8
4	Sometimes	47	4.9
5	Most of the time	35	3.6
6	Always	44	4.5
	Missing	6	
Q10. Have you ever ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?			
1	Yes	378	39
2	No	436	45
3	Not sure	155	16
	Missing	6	
Q11. Have you ever carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club?			
1	Yes	502	52
2	No	464	48
	Missing	9	
Q12. Have you ever been in a physical fight?			
1	Yes	591	61.6
2	No	369	38.4
	Missing	15	
Q13. Have you ever been in a physical fight in which you were hurt and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?			
1	Yes	69	7.2
2	No	896	92.8
	Missing	10	
Q14. Have you ever seriously thought about killing yourself?			
1	Yes	240	24.8
2	No	729	75.2
	Missing	6	

		Unweighted (N)	Unweighted (Percent)
Q15. Have you ever made a plan about how you would kill yourself?			
1	Yes	193	19.9
2	No	778	80.1
	Missing	4	
Q16. Have you ever tried to kill yourself?			
1	Yes	111	11.4
2	No	859	88.6
	Missing	5	
Q17. Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?			
1	Yes	535	57.3
2	No	398	42.7
	Missing	2	
Q18. How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?			
1	Never smoked a cigarette	524	55.7
2	8 years old or younger	73	7.8
3	9 years old	46	4.9
4	10 years old	64	6.8
5	11 years old	63	6.7
6	12 years old	93	9.9
7	13 years old	65	6.9
8	14 years old or older	12	1.3
	Missing	35	
Q19. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?			
1	0 days	739	79
2	1 or 2 days	56	6
3	3 to 5 days	28	3
4	6 to 9 days	25	2.7
5	10 to 19 days	24	2.6
6	20 to 29 days	20	2.1
7	All 30 days	44	4.7
	Missing	39	
Q20. During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?			
1	Did not smoke cigarettes	733	78.8
2	Less than 1 cigarette	55	5.9
3	1 cigarette	38	4.1
4	2 to 5 cigarettes	71	7.6
5	6 to 10 cigarettes	23	2.5
6	11 to 20 cigarettes	5	0.5
7	More than 20 cigarettes	5	0.5
	Missing	45	

Youth Risk Behavior Survey-1999

		Unweighted (N)	Unweighted (Percent)
Q21. During the past 30 days, how did you usually get your own cigarettes?			
1	Did not smoke cigarettes	732	79
2	Store	4	0.4
4	Someone else bought them	59	6.4
5	Borrowed them	63	6.8
6	Stole them	24	2.6
7	Some other way	44	4.8
	Missing	49	
Q22. When you bought cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days, were you ever asked to show proof of age?			
1	Did not buy cigarettes	875	92.1
2	Yes	14	1.5
3	No	61	6.4
	Missing	25	
Q23. Have you ever smoked cigarettes regularly, that is, at least one cigarette, every day for 30 days?			
1	Yes	155	16.4
2	No	793	83.6
	Missing	27	
Q24. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco or snuff, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, or Copenhagen?			
1	0 days	881	91.9
2	1 or 2 days	27	2.8
3	3 to 5 days	13	1.4
4	6 to 9 days	5	0.5
5	10 to 19 days	9	0.9
6	20 to 29 days	5	0.5
7	All 30 days	19	2
	Missing	16	
Q25. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars?			
1	0 days	900	93.2
2	1 or 2 days	39	4
3	3 to 5 days	4	0.4
4	6 to 9 days	8	0.8
5	10 to 19 days	3	0.3
6	20 to 29 days	1	0.1
7	All 30 days	11	1.1
	Missing	9	

		Unweighted (N)	Unweighted (Percent)
Q15. Have you ever made a plan about how you would kill yourself?			
1	Yes	193	19.9
2	No	778	80.1
	Missing	4	
Q16. Have you ever tried to kill yourself?			
1	Yes	111	11.4
2	No	859	88.6
	Missing	5	
Q17. Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?			
1	Yes	535	57.3
2	No	398	42.7
	Missing	2	
Q18. How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?			
1	Never smoked a cigarette	524	55.7
2	8 years old or younger	73	7.8
3	9 years old	46	4.9
4	10 years old	64	6.8
5	11 years old	63	6.7
6	12 years old	93	9.9
7	13 years old	65	6.9
8	14 years old or older	12	1.3
	Missing	35	
Q19. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?			
1	0 days	739	79
2	1 or 2 days	56	6
3	3 to 5 days	28	3
4	6 to 9 days	25	2.7
5	10 to 19 days	24	2.6
6	20 to 29 days	20	2.1
7	All 30 days	44	4.7
	Missing	39	
Q20. During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?			
1	Did not smoke cigarettes	733	78.8
2	Less than 1 cigarette	55	5.9
3	1 cigarette	38	4.1
4	2 to 5 cigarettes	71	7.6
5	6 to 10 cigarettes	23	2.5
6	11 to 20 cigarettes	5	0.5
7	More than 20 cigarettes	5	0.5
	Missing	45	

		Unweighted (N)	Unweighted (Percent)
Q26. Have you ever had a drink of alcohol, other than a few sips?			
1	Yes	450	49.2
2	No	465	50.8
	Missing	60	

Q27. How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?

1	Never drank alcohol	452	50.2
2	8 years old or younger	85	9.4
3	9 years old	35	3.9
4	10 years old	41	4.6
5	11 years old	64	7.1
6	12 years old	108	12
7	13 years old	89	9.9
8	14 years old or older	27	3
	Missing	74	

Q28. Have you ever used marijuana?

1	Yes	274	28.9
2	No	674	71.1
	Missing	27	

Q29. How old were you when you first tried marijuana for the first time?

1	Never tried marijuana	672	71
2	8 years old or younger	35	3.7
3	9 years old	20	2.1
4	10 years old	26	2.7
5	11 years old	54	5.7
6	12 years old	64	6.8
7	13 years old	60	6.3
8	14 years old or older	15	1.6
	Missing	29	

Q30. Have you ever used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?

1	Yes	55	5.7
2	No	907	94.3
	Missing	13	

Q31. Have you ever sniffed glue, or breathed the contents of spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?

1	Yes	116	12
2	No	853	88
	Missing	6	

Youth Risk Behavior Survey-1999

		Unweighted (N)	Unweighted (Percent)
Q32. Have you ever used steroids?			
1	Yes	26	2.7
2	No	943	97.3
	Missing	6	
Q33. Have you ever used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body?			
1	Yes	17	1.8
2	No	945	98.2
	Missing	13	
Q34. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?			
1	Yes	142	15.8
2	No	757	84.2
	Missing	76	
Q35. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?			
1	Never had sexual intercourse	758	84.2
2	8 years old or younger	23	2.6
3	9 years old	4	0.4
4	10 years old	7	0.8
5	11 years old	19	2.1
6	12 years old	23	2.6
7	13 years old	47	5.2
8	14 years old or older	19	2.1
	Missing	75	
Q36. With how many people have you ever had sexual intercourse?			
1	Never had sexual intercourse	754	84.2
2	1 person	49	5.5
3	2 people	37	4.1
4	3 or more people	55	6.1
	Missing	80	
Q37. The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?			
1	Never had sexual intercourse	756	84.3
2	Yes	93	10.4
3	No	48	5.4
	Missing	78	
Q38. How do you describe your weight?			
1	Very underweight	41	4.3
2	Slightly underweight	121	12.7
3	About the right weight	495	51.8
4	Slightly overweight	253	26.5
5	Very overweight	46	4.8
	Missing	19	

		Unweighted (N)	Unweighted (Percent)
Q39. Which of the following are you trying to do about your weight?			
1	Lose weight	428	44.5
2	Gain weight	96	10
3	Stay the same weight	206	21.4
4	Not trying to do anything	231	24
	Missing	14	
Q40. Have you ever exercised to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?			
1	Yes	632	65.7
2	No	330	34.3
	Missing	13	
Q41. Have you ever eaten less food, fewer calories, or foods low in fat to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?			
1	Yes	444	46.5
2	No	510	53.5
	Missing	21	
Q42. Have you ever gone without eating for 24 hours or more (also called fasting) to lose weight or keep from gaining weight?			
1	Yes	209	21.8
2	No	749	78.2
	Missing	17	
Q43. Have you ever taken any diet pills, powders, or liquids without a doctor's advice to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?			
1	Yes	86	8.9
2	No	877	91.1
	Missing	12	
Q44. Have you ever vomited or taken laxatives to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?			
1	Yes	65	6.8
2	No	887	93.2
	Missing	23	
Q45. On how many of the past seven days did you exercise or participate in physical activity for at least 20 minutes that made you sweat and breathe hard, such as basketball, soccer, running, swimming laps?			
1	0 days	110	11.5
2	1 day	73	7.7
3	2 days	73	7.7
4	3 days	106	11.1
5	4 days	90	9.4
6	5 days	148	15.5
7	6 days	83	8.7
8	7 days	271	28.4
	Missing	21	

		Unweighted (N)	Unweighted (Percent)
Q46. On an average school day, how many hours do you watch TV?			
1	No TV on average school day	80	8.4
2	Less than 1 hour per day	157	16.4
3	1 hour per day	140	14.6
4	2 hours per day	233	24.3
5	3 hours per day	157	16.4
6	4 hours per day	92	9.6
7	5 or more hours per day	99	10.3
	Missing	17	
Q47. In an average week when you are in school, on how many days do you go to physical education (PE) classes?			
1	0 days	192	20.3
2	1 day	29	3.1
3	2 days	60	6.3
4	3 days	112	11.8
5	4 days	98	10.3
6	5 days	456	48.2
	Missing	28	
Q48. Do you play on any sports teams? (Include any teams run by your school or community groups.)			
1	Yes	595	63.4
2	No	344	36.6
	Missing	36	
Q49. Have you ever been injured while exercising, playing sports, or being physically active and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?			
1	Yes	535	56.1
2	No	419	43.9
	Missing	21	
Q50. Have you ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school?			
1	Yes	717	76.8
2	No	109	11.7
3	Not sure	107	11.5
	Missing	42	



AASB Position Paper Support for Changing the Active Parent Consent Provision to Passive Consent for Student Surveys

AASB supports modifying the requirements for parental or legal guardian permission for a student to participate in a questionnaire or survey administered in a public school by making it easier for school districts to obtain the necessary permission.

The current Alaskan statute requiring Positive Parent Consent has an unintended negative consequence of erecting barriers between school district programs and services which focus on the reduction of risk behaviors among youth and the government and non-profit agencies that fund these efforts. In order to increase accountability among programs and services, we need to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts, we need to gather data relating to risk behaviors and the corresponding assets of youth. In order to collect data, we need to reduce the barriers which interfere with school and agency efforts of collecting data that is confidential, legal, accurate, and relevant.

AASB believes that there are tangible benefits to conducting anonymous student surveys. In these times of accountability and accuracy, our member districts need data with which to weigh the effectiveness of their educational programs, monitor progress toward district wide objectives related to the health, safety, and well being of youth, and direct programs and services to the areas of greatest benefit.

Research and common sense shows us that parents sent an Active Consent Request Form are more likely not to sign and return the form due to apathy or inertia, rather than an objection to the survey itself.

AASB supports legislation which would:

- allow each public school district to establish the policies and guidelines related to student surveys, and
- eliminate the current unfunded mandate by replacing Active Parent Consent with Passive Parent Consent.

AASB supports the efforts of the legislature to provide local boards of education and each community with the tools necessary to increase student achievement and protect the health and safety of children and youth.

Dear Representative Bunde,

I support the bill (HB408) to change the state law regarding ACTIVE PARENT Consent for anonymous student surveys.

Due to the positive parental consent law, our state and Alaskan communities have been at a disadvantage since we have not been able to get solid data back from our surveying efforts. The implications are vast, when it comes to collecting data on adolescents.

Parent and student rights will be safeguarded with appropriate policies concerning surveys and questionnaires, and the appropriate protections will continue if the suggested changes in the law are enacted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donna Rae Faulkner
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Director of Alaska ICE
Association of Alaska School Boards
319 West 11th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Legislative Priorities 2002

Revise Parental Permission Requirements for Questionnaires and Surveys Administered in Public Schools

The Anchorage School Board supports modifying the requirements for parental or legal guardian permission for a student to participate in a questionnaire or survey administered in a public school by making it easier for school districts to obtain the necessary permission. As a result of the passage of H.B. 70 in 1999, schools are unable to obtain an adequate sample to provide reliable information.

Rationale: For state and federal grants, school districts need school-by-school data to accurately assess the need and success of current efforts. The low response rates on the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) made this kind of detailed data impossible. In Anchorage, for example, the Anchorage School District Safe and Drug Free Schools had seven grants asking for such data. During the fall 1999 Site Review, Federal auditors put the ASD Safe

and Drug Free Schools program on notice that it was bordering on non-compliance due to lack of current data. The program lost three grants totaling \$296,915. Other grants have not been applied for because the criteria indicated that without contemporary data, the application would not be competitive. Other youth-serving agencies and programs in Anchorage and throughout the state face similar grant rejection prospects.

The Anchorage School Board supports modifying the requirements for parental permission for student participation in surveys or questionnaires. Our district has experienced significant difficulties collecting sufficient signatures for statistically valid surveys. We are also having to make substantial administrative efforts and expenditures to collect, track and report the permission data. As a ~~direct~~ result we have already lost about \$300,000 in grants and federal auditors have put our Safe and Drug Free Schools program on notice that it's bordering on non-compliance due to lack of current data.

The current language of AS 14.03.110 requires active parent permission in all cases of student surveys or questionnaires, whether anonymous or not. It applies to all surveys that inquire into personal or private family affairs of the student that are not a matter of public record or subject to public observation. While active parental permission can be granted on an annual basis for anonymous surveys, specific permission is required for each survey that is not anonymous. In the Anchorage School District, the cost of administering a district-wide or school-wide survey can reach into the tens of thousands of dollars as a result of this requirement for active prior parental consent.

An equally important problem with active consent for all surveys is that many parents, with their busy schedules, simply don't have, or don't take, the time to respond. Most parents of high school students don't even show up when their

children register for school. Active parent permission requires parents take the time to complete the permission form and return it to the District. Unless parents also read background about the need for such survey information they often fail to see why these efforts even matter. The end result is that the surveys administered may not be statistically meaningful because the numbers responding are so low. In fact, in the ASD, several planned surveys have been scrapped because of low parent response. Unfortunately, the decision to discontinue a planned survey occurs only after our District has spent thousands of dollars to give notice of the survey and to seek parental permission, often going back two or three times to try for adequate numbers.

On the other hand, the parental right to deny permission (passive parental consent), as proposed in HB 408, will permit the administration of anonymous surveys to all students except those whose parents have indicated that they do not want the survey to be administered to their student. Parents will continue to have ample opportunity to review any survey. The ability to administer surveys that have statistically significant results is necessary for educational research and studies relying on this data. This is hampered under the existing law.

The ability of parents to consent to those surveys that are not anonymous, and to deny permission for those surveys that are, securely protects the privacy of our students and their families. The continued requirement for full and complete

notice in this bill will allow families to make informed decisions as to student participation.

Additionally, AS 14.03.110 is just one vehicle which protects the right of privacy for students and their parents. Federally, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides that personally identifiable information contained in a student's educational records is protected from disclosure to third parties without parental consent, except in limited instances. And a more recent second Act, the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment ("PPRA" or "Hatch Amendment") is similar to Alaska's student survey law. The PPRA protects the rights of parents and students in two ways. First, it ensures that instructional materials related to a survey are available for inspection by parents. Second, it provides that parental consent must be obtained before students are required to participate in any USDOE-funded survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information in several categories deemed to be invasive of student or family privacy.

All Alaska school districts that receive federal funds must comply with FERPA and the PPRA. The PPRA consent requirements apply to any survey funded by monies from the United States Department of Education. The proposed language of HB 408 incorporates the same protections of the federal law, only it does so more broadly, applying to all surveys administered, regardless of the

funding mechanism, and regardless of whether student participation is required or is voluntary. Accordingly, HB 408 adequately protects students in Alaska.

We appreciate the Committee efforts to recognize our concerns in this area. We are in process of making a through review of the bill and hope to be able to share some specific thoughts on its language in the near future. HB 408 addresses a significant problem; it is worthy of support. We thank you for its introduction.

Debbie Ossiander, PO Box 670772, Chugiak, AK 688-2308



Department Of Academic Programs & Support

P.O. Box 305
Bethel, AK 99559
fax: 907-543-4924
Phone: 907-543-4806

February 19, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to show the Lower Kuskokwim School District's support for the bill to repeal the active parental consent required for students to fill out surveys at school.

Our school district has had excellent participation in past Youth Risk Behavior Surveys. The data was not only reliable but extremely valuable. We routinely shared the YRBS report with local organizations that provide services aimed at prevention and intervention of high-risk behaviors. It was discouraging and damaging to have lost such a critical tool for measuring health related behaviors in our student population.

We have used the data from the surveys to provide direction in instructional programs and to apply for grant monies targeted at high-risk kids. Teachers and parents alike were interested in identifying the types of risky behaviors students were exposed to. Having reliable data to compare local statistics with state and national data was also informative. The information was sorely missed this past year by our school district and community organizations.

In our district, much effort was expended to secure active parental consent for the most recent survey. The importance of full participation was stressed to teachers, students and parents. It was crucial that we try to match the level of past participation so we could continue receiving viable results from the survey. It was disappointing to see how drastic the drop in participation was after requiring the extra paperwork from schools, parents and students.

Even though we pushed very hard for active consent, there was risk in only gathering data from pre-selected students. The data would be biased if it only came from students whose parents signed the forms. Kids with high-risk behaviors are often ones who neglect to get paperwork in and it is likely that the results would be biased. In order to encourage students to answer survey questions truthfully we must show that their answers will be couched amid anonymity. If students knew that only a handful of their peers were completing surveys, they may not feel safe giving truthful information for fear of being identified from such a small field of participants.

The only way we can gather reliable data is to encourage maximum participation in the survey by making it as easy as possible for it to be administered. We strongly encourage the passage of this bill.

Thank you,

Julie McWilliams
Education Specialist, LKSD

David Moore, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Safe and Drug Free Schools
dmoorephd@yahoo.com

University of Washington
College of Education
*Center for the Study and Teaching
of At-Risk Students (C-STARS)*

This testimony is in support of the Alaska State Legislature's proposal to remove the provision requiring active parental consent for school districts conducting surveys to determine the ongoing health needs of their student population.

The current survey model is not valid and under-reports serious youth health problems. The White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy determined that surveys requiring active parental consent are invalid (Dent et al, 1995). They under-report various problem health behaviors, including marijuana use and a range of risk taking behaviors.

Currently, the legislature cannot audit the effectiveness of many youth health care programs. Unless this requirement is removed, Alaska cannot accurately measure the impact of many of their children, youth and family services programs. Citizens cannot track the value and effectiveness of many programs, including those targeting violence and substance abuse reduction in communities.

Loss of federal funds to other states. Alaskan programs competing for federal grant funding are at a disadvantage to programs from other states that can offer program evaluation using valid student surveys that do not require active parental consent. This is a particular barrier in receiving the state's fair share of competitive substance abuse and violence prevention grants. Valid program evaluation methods are 15-30% of the scoring.

Recent passage of the Bush "Leave no child behind" education bill removed mandatory active parental consent and replaced that provision with guidance for local decision-making:

"A local educational agency that receives funds under any applicable program shall develop and adopt policies, in consultation with parents, regarding the following: The right of a parent of a student to inspect, upon the request of the parent, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student; and (ii) any applicable procedures for granting a request by a parent for reasonable access to such survey within a reasonable period of time after the request is received."

This provision allows for fully informing parents and allowing them to opt out of the survey. Districts can make decisions on a more individualized basis. In particular, they can allow passive consent for critical health surveys such as the Youth Health Behavior Survey; while requiring active parental consent for less important surveys.

The legislature should allow for local control, on an individualized basis, of school surveys.



SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

3245 HOSPITAL DR • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801 • (907) 463-4000 • FAX: (907) 463-4075

February 14, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

In 1995, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium worked with the Juneau School District to conduct the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Utilizing grant funding from the federal Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention, SEARHC provided extensive financial and staff support to conduct the survey with the requirement that positive parent consent be obtained for each student. SEARHC wanted to be sure the data collected was accurate and meaningful which meant working hard to ensure a large percentage of parent consent forms were returned, with as many positive consents as possible.

SEARHC employed a part-time staff person who worked for approximately 3 - 4 months focusing on organizing the effort to obtain positive parental consent. Incentives were provided to students and teachers to encourage them to return the parental consent forms (regardless of whether the consent was positive or negative). Classes who returned 90% of the consent forms got to have a pizza party and the teachers received a financial incentive to cover extra classroom supplies. Students were given consent forms in class to take home and return to school, for those who did not return the consent forms a new form was mailed directly to the parents. Parents who still did not respond were contacted by phone by volunteers from the Mayor's Task Force on Youth. Throughout the effort, the emphasis was on returning the consent form whether consent was positive or negative. Tracking the paperwork was an arduous task.

Efforts were made to educate parents about the importance of accurate data on youth risk behaviors. Presentations were made to parent groups at each school, information was printed in the newspaper, and copies of the survey were available for parents to review at multiple locations in each school. When parents received education about the survey, the majority recognized the importance of accurate data in developing programs and choosing priorities and readily gave their consent. The big struggle was getting students to return the form, when the form was returned the vast majority of parents gave positive consent. Only a small number refused to allow their child to participate in the survey and this request was always honored.

Juneau was able to get enough consent forms returned to make the survey results accurate, but this came at a great expense of both time and money. It would have been much more beneficial to have used the time and money to implement programs to prevent substance use rather than collecting and counting papers. In future years, SEARHC was not able to provide the same support to obtain consents and instead focused on substance abuse prevention programs.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Monk, MPH
Former Health Promotion Manager & YRBS Coordinator

Revilla Island Prevention Coalition
 3054 Fifth Avenue • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
 907-225-4350

February 15, 2002

Derek Peterson, Director Child and Youth Advocacy
 Association of Alaska School Boards
 Juneau, Alaska

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to learn about House Bill No. 408 that would change the parental consent requirement for surveys or questionnaires that are anonymous. PATCHWorks is a community asset building initiative in Ketchikan. In 1997 and 2001 in cooperation with the Ketchikan School District, we administered Search Institute's *Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors* survey. They were an absolute nightmare to accomplish.

To obtain the most valid data, we targeted our total 7th-12th grade population of 1200 students. According to the existing Alaska statute, our formidable task was to get 1200 permission slips. As a former School Board member, I understand the value of this data for planning and funding purposes. Also, as research supports, the health status of students is directly related to their academic performance.

We spent months and thousands of dollars to have parents return permission slips. We had tables at back to school night and conferences. We did expensive direct mailings. We sponsored incentives for students to bring forms back. We published ads in the paper and paid for PSAs on radio. In our most recent survey, after this tremendous effort, we had obtained about 810 permission slips, or about 60% of our targeted group.

Here are some of the serious challenges:

- It is a nightmare for school principals to figure out an administration time that does not disrupt classes because you have only a partial group of your student body participating in the survey.
- The validity of the results are questionable, and possibly skewed because parents in struggling or non-supportive families are less likely to make the effort to return the permission slips.
- Districts are resistant to conducting surveys because of the added stress, and as a result are at risk of losing funding through grants that require recent data.
- Districts are hindered in measuring outcomes and effectiveness of certain critical programs such as substance abuse prevention education.
- Finally, communities are limited in obtaining valuable information to guide public officials and educate citizens in meeting the needs of their youth.

I strongly support passage of House Bill No. 408. It still gives parents the opportunity to withdraw their child from the survey if that is their choice. And I know from experience that the major surveys go to great lengths to assure that participants are anonymous.

Sincerely,


 Diane Gubatayao, PATCHWorks Coordinator
 Member, Revilla Island Prevention Coalition

Members
 PATCHWorks
 Women in Safe Homes
 Seaman Youth Reach
 Gateway Center for
 Human Services
 Jesters for Drug
 Free Youth/
 Recovery Center
 Juvenile Probation
 Ketchikan Resource
 Center
 Ketchikan Youth
 Court
 Hoanbar Middle
 School
 INOE.com
 Kid News Fellowship
 Ketchikan Police Dept
 Elder Care
 Coordination
 Ketchikan Indian
 Corporation
 Community Connections
 EriCorps

Member of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America

Subject:

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 18:16:20 -0600

From: Peggy Spittler <peggy.spittler@heart.org>

To: "representative_con_bunde@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative Bunde

I would like you to know that I strongly am in favor of the following bill!

HB 408 - Student Survey Bill

Thank you

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn. " Alvin Toffler

Peggy Spittler, Executive Director
American Heart Association
1057 West Fireweed, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503
phone 907.263.2015
fax 907.263.2045
toll-free 888.276.0858

Subject: positive parental permission for surveying

Date: Fri, 15 Feb 2002 14:44:31 -0900

From: "Dawn Miller" <dmiller-ncaddj@ak.net>

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

Rep. Bunde,

I'm writing to convey my support for HB 408. As a provider of services to youth who are at risk of chemical dependency, teen pregnancy, acts of violence and school drop out, I cannot stress how crucial it is that the prevention community be able to assess youth's behaviors, attitudes and knowledge surrounding these issues. I urge you to convey to all participating parties how necessary the information in these surveys is to providing appropriate, effective prevention programming for our youth.

Thank you,

Dawn Miller

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

Subject: HB 408

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 18:05:23 -0900

From: "John and Karen" <steinmarie@gci.net>

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Rep. Bunde

I support legislation to ease the restrictions on anonymous student surveys.

The present restrictions make scientifically accurate information about our students and schools unreasonably difficult to obtain.

Timely, repeatable inquiries are essential to establish trends on issues of risk behavior, school safety and health and to measure the effectiveness of remedial efforts. This same information helps manage HSS budget expenditures to keep costs down.

Thank you

John C. Stein, Executive Director, Kids Are People, inc., Mat-Su

Subject: Student Surveys

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 14:00:33 -0900

From: "Christinar" <christinar@serrc.org>

Organization: SERRC

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

Representative Bunde

I would like to request you support changing the student survey consent law. Presently, the law requires active parent consent. If we are to obtain a realistic picture of students behaviors we need to hear from a greater population of students. By having passive student consent parents are still given ample opportunity to see any surveys given to their students and request the their students not participate.
Thank you for your work toward getting this changed.

Christina Reagle

Christina Reagle, M.Ed.

SERRC

900 West 5th Ave., Suite 101

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

907.349.0651

Subject: Student Surveys

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 16:00:53 -0900

From: Judy Neary <judy.neary@searhc.org>

To: Con Bunde <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

This is in regards to HB 408 and the student surveys. As an individual working with youth, gathering unbiased and honest information from students is vital to structuring our programs to meet the needs of youth in our schools. Please change the way the law currently reads and allow students to complete anonymous surveys without their parents' consent.

Subject: HB 408

Date: Fri, 15 Feb 2002 16:59:42 -0900

From: Jim Douglas <jyces@uas.alaska.edu>

Organization: Alaska Cooperative Extension

**To: Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us,
representative_beth_kertulla@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us**

Representatives Bunde, Kertulla, and Hudson, It is imperative that we are able to conduct survey's in schools to determine not only attitudes but in many cases student successes and failures with such things as substance abuse, character education, daily school and personal issues. The present law requiring parental consent negates most surveys as youth fail to get the forms home or the forms get lost at home. The change to allow parents the right of non consent will allow those parents who object to a survey to remove their child from the pool, without reducing the valuable information we need to make informed judgments about youth issues. Please know that the state 4-H program supports HB 408 as we need the type of information these surveys provide so we can adjust our programs to meet the real needs of today's youth. Thanks for your support.

Jim Douglas
4-H Program Chair
907-465-8756
3032 Vintage Blvd. Suite 104
Juneau, AK 99801
jyces@uas.alaska.edu

Subject: HB408 testimony--please replace email I sent 5 minutes ago

Date: Fri, 15 Feb 2002 15:58:03 -0900

From: "Jessica Paris" <parisj@mail.jsd.k12.ak.us>

To: Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

I am a teacher at JDHS. I am writing in support of HB408, which allows us to survey youth with passive parental consent. As a society we are often naïve about the problems our youth face and the risky behaviors they choose to participate in. If it weren't for the 1999 YRBS (an anonymous survey of Alaska teens), I would never have thought that over half of our juniors and seniors have had sex. I still find it difficult to believe that 1 out of 4 of my little freshmen have had sex. We obviously need to do better at educating them about how to say no.

We do have programs that are trying to do that right now, like ATI (Alaska Teen Institute) and PSI (Postponing Sexual Involvement), but we need to be able to get accurate statistics in order to evaluate the need and the effectiveness of these and other programs designed to help youth. What if these programs are a waste of time? What if they do not achieve their goals or in fact do more harm than good? They should not continue to receive money. These programs need to be held accountable. And what if the programs are both necessary and effective? Shouldn't they continue to be funded?

But how are we to evaluate them without information about youth behavior? We need to be able to survey a representative sample of youth in order to get valid information. Law 14.03.110, which requires active parental consent in order to survey youth, has (perhaps inadvertently) harmed our ability to judge what programs our students need and our ability to fund these programs. Requiring active parental consent hamstring a survey because you only get statistics on Permission-Slip-Returning Kids or kids with School-Mail-Reading-And-Returning Parents. And in a post 1999 attempt to survey students under active parental consent laws, "Returners" constituted about only 10% of the population. This might not invalidate an election, but it does invalidate a survey.

Under HB408, parents will still have the right to refuse permission for their child to participate in an anonymous survey. Students will still have the right to refuse to participate.

But under current law parents and students who want the student to participate in an anonymous survey will NOT have that right if the child doesn't remember to return the consent form. Why do they fail to return it? Maybe it's the same reason I always forget to buy toothpaste and lightbulbs.

Please support HB 408. Thank you for your time.

Jessica Paris
Teacher at JDHS
586-4695

Subject: HB 408 parent permission bill

Date: Wed, 13 Feb 2002 23:48:28 -0900

From: Becky Judd <bjudd-h@ak.net>

To: "representative_con_bunde@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

I strongly support this bill.

I have talked with many many schools & youth organizations who don't have the data to know if their alcohol/drug prevention activities are effective, if their teen pregnancy prevention activities are curbing the initiation of early sexual activity, if all our anti-tobacco prevention efforts are stemming the tide of teen tobacco use!

WE DON'T KNOW... Because of the current law.

We do have adequate prevalence data for the teen risk behaviors. The current law has put an undue financial and time burden on schools to get the active consent from parents for their children to participate in anonymous surveys.

I know..having talked to many many many parents that, they never even see the permission slips..it just gets lost... a school mails them a second, third slip, makes phone calls to parents, and they still never make it back to the school. The time (\$\$\$) spent on tracking those permission slips is **COSTLY**.

Meanwhile schools and youth organizations are not able to compete with local organizations from other states for national foundation or federal dollars because they can not document their needs nor trends, since we don't have the local or statewide prevalence data that comes from the YRBS.

This spring the YRBS was administered to randomized schools around the state, again because of this law... there was not enough active parent consents to make the data collected useable.

Alaska and its communities remain in the dark about the prevalence of our teens risk behaviors. Help us lift the veil! Parents will still have the right to deny participation. WE are removing undue burdens and dollars!

Becky Judd
6401 Italy Cir.
Anchorage AK 99516
345-3619

Jeff Budd

Subject: Jeff Budd

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 11:19:47 -0800 (PST)

From: Jeff Budd <jbudd3500@yahoo.com>

To: Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

14 Feb 02

Dear Representative Bunde,

Please help in the passing of the bill to allow youth serving agencies to better gather data so that we can provide the services our Alaska youth need and deserve. Thank you. Jeff Budd, Sitka, Alaska

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Subject: HB 408 - Student Survey Bill

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 13:53:56 -0800

From: Ley Schleich <arcticloon@gci.net>

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

Honorable Representative Bunde,

I am writing to you with strong support for HB 408, the Student Survey bill, that is currently before you for consideration.

I have been involved with helping school districts conduct the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the Developmental Assets Survey, and other health-related surveys. I am familiar with the survey data needed for the statewide tobacco control plan. None of the data generated from these surveys since the requirement of active parental consent is of much value, in my estimation, because of the small "N's" due to the active parent consent state law. As a prevention specialist striving to help schools and community groups in their efforts to be accountable and to conduct sound evaluations of programs, I can tell you the law makes this impossible.

We can get good data about program effectiveness and behavior trends without hurting people. I believe parents' and students' rights and privileges will be protected through policies already in place for informing them of survey material and giving them an opportunity to opt out.

I trust you and your colleagues in the Legislature will see the wisdom of repealing the active parental consent law by supporting HB408.

Sincerely,
Ley Schleich
Owner, Arctic Loon Consulting
P. O. Box 874216
Wasilla, AK 99687

Subject: HB 408

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 16:40:29 -0800

From: "buddy4" <buddy4@alaska.net>

To: "Representative Con Bunde" <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

Con,

I am writing in support of HB 408 which is the student survey bill. With passive consent of student surveys, public health will be able to measure the effectiveness of community and student programs designed to improve school performance and reduce high risk behavior.

As a parent I have no objection to my two teenagers taking an anonymous survey about their teenage habits.

Joan Diamond

Subject: hb408

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 19:59:57 -0600

From: "echavarria" <echavarria@gci.net>

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

I understand that there is proposed legislation to change the state law regarding active written permission slips for surveys of students in our public schools.

I am an Athabascan Indian who has lived and worked in the rural setting of Alaska. I personally was opposed to the original legislation requiring active written permission due to the impact and the cost to gather health behavior information of importance to our native people and to our population in general. I've written many grants that have used the state's valuable resource, the Adolescent Health Survey, which by the way was an anonymous survey. I certainly support this repeal as it relates to anonymous surveys. I thought the previous legislation was led by a strong minority of our population who don't understand the significance that demographics, epidemiology and statistics portrays in the measuring of outcome measures that are often not noticed in a short period of time especially when behavior change is the goal. I appreciate this opportunity to convey and exercise my rights to change policy in my home state. Thank you

Subject: HB 408

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 21:18:07 -0900

From: Janice Tower <jtower@alaska.com>

To: Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative Bunde,

Two things are on my mind tonight. First is to congratulate you for having the courage to push the Legislature into considering a broad-based revenue generating plan to help us balance the state budget. Finally, someone (you) threw a forward pass and not one off to the side.

Secondly, I am in support of HB 408, a bill to change the law regarding active parent consent for participation in anonymous surveys. In order for educators and health professionals to target improvements in education and public health, the experts need to know what the kids are up to. Surveys such as the Youth Risk Behavior Survey could provide valuable insights to the behavior of adolescents. Better program design and planning would be a favorable end result.

Thank you for your time, and keep up the good work.

Janice Tower
7645 Griffith Street
Anchorage, AK 99507

Subject: Support for HB 408

Date: Thu, 14 Feb 2002 20:51:32 -0900

From: "Bret and Kathy Burton" <burton@mtaonline.net>

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative Bunde,

It is with great enthusiasm that I relate to you my overwhelming approval of HB408.

As a pediatrician it is imperative to know the children in my care, their families, and the environment in which they are growing. Commonly, I cannot be familiar with the all the facets of their lives. One tool to gain insight is the Youth Risk Behavior Survey from the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention. Every other year this anonymous survey is given in the public school system and snapshot is taken of our children's lives. The questions are balanced, non-intrusive, and non-suggestive. Answers are collated by the CDC in Atlanta and given to our state to objectively evaluate how well we are providing healthy homes, schools, and communities. An example of the 2001 survey can be seen at <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/2001survey.htm>

This valuable information has been incomplete for our state in the last several years. An assumption has been legislated that parents can trust our schools to give our children answers in life but cannot be entrusted with asking them questions. Because we lack objective information about our children our state has missed the opportunity for federal and state grants to improve our educational processes.

Fortunately, HB408 changes that. Parents and guardians remain the experts on their children. Thus, they will be given the opportunity to deny administration of any questionnaire or survey. Furthermore, the school district must give at least two weeks written notice before a survey so parents can educate themselves about the questions posed and then decide if they wish to deny access to their children.

I believe this is positive legislation for our children. Thank you for your ongoing support of our future generations.

Bret Burton, MD, FAAP
9643 Nulato Cir
Eagle River, AK 99577
907.696.5535

Subject: HB 408

Date: Fri, 15 Feb 2002 07:45:21 -0900

From: "Rocky Plotnick" <rockyplotnick@earthlink.net>

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

CC: <rocky@aklung.org>

Dear Representative Bunde-

This message is to express my strong support for HB 408. This change in Alaska Statute would allow the implementation of harmless youth/teen surveys which I think are crucial in order to obtain meaningful data. Especially as we continue in our efforts to reduce tobacco use and other risky behaviors, we need to be able to document our progress. Not only as a public health professional, but as the parent of a teenager, I support HB 408.

Sincerely,

Rocky Plotnick, MS, CHES (Rockelle)
P.O. Box 110923
Anchorage, Alaska 99511
907-346-2956

Subject: HB 408

Date: Fri, 15 Feb 2002 13:03:39 -0900

From: Ric Iannolino <converge@ptialaska.net>

To: Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative Bunde

I would like to urge you and the house of representative to pass HB 408. This bill to amend the current law that prevents schools and other child and youth related organizations from obtaining critical information from students in order to assist them. I understand that it was not intended to harm children but the effect of this law has been very destructive.

I am the chair of the **Youth on the Street** organization which is attempting to assist homeless youth in Juneau.

We need to document the extent, characteristics and conditions of homeless youth in Juneau. The McDowell Group designed a Homeless Youth Survey which we conducted in May of 1998. The purpose of the survey was to get information to make the public aware fo the problem of homeless youth.

We are trying to locate funding and support from national organizations through foundations and grants. We require accurate and reliable information which is not available at this time. We preparing to conduct another more extensive survey tool. We are aware that unless this bill is passed to amend the current law we may not be able to obtain the information required to obtain additional funding.

I urge you and the house of representatives to pass HB 408.

RE: PASSAGE OF HB 408

TO: Representatives Con Bunde, Beth Kerttula, Fred Dyson, ^{Bill Hudson} and the legislative committee considering passage of HB 408

FROM: Kathryn Arlen, owner "Mindmerger" public relations company; also a PR liaison for "Youth on the Streets" action group, an organization dedicated to the creation of transitional shelter and necessities for Juneau's homeless youth while also encouraging development of life skills and personal independence.

DATE: February 20, 2002

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I strongly urge the passage of HB 408. Amending the wording from "active" parental consent to "passive" would greatly facilitate the potential acquisition of firsthand information from our young people without violating parental rights and simultaneously encouraging our youths' participation in planning their own immediate futures with the knowledge that their voices can be heard.

FIRST: if the question of violating parents rights or concerns is an issue in the changing of this wording, that issue is easily solved by giving parents the option of refusal by MAKING THIS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR right up front and emphasizing they must return the signed form only if they do not wish their son or daughter to participate and giving them a clearly defined deadline within which to do so.

SECOND: students will then have the right to directly participate in any survey employing these guidelines if they so desire. They also will have the right of refusal. Though they may not yet be of legal age to do many things in adult society, like vote, marry, enlist, smoke, buy liquor, they do have the right simply by existing as citizens, no matter what their age, to exercise their right to freedom of speech and in a polite, civilized manner let their opinions and viewpoints be known, especially in areas affecting them.

If we do not know how young people feel, how can we best plan for their future, hopefully looking out for their best interests? If we have overlooked a problem that may have been solved by a simple "question and answer" exercise, whose fault is that? And consider, please, the psychological uplift, the vote of confidence we could be giving our youth by simply acknowledging we value their opinions.

THREE: Thus, armed with what could hopefully be more detailed and in-depth information, any of us in the adult world actively focusing on improving situations for our next generation can have a better shot at making a difference for them. This belief is now and always has been a generation to generation tradition in our society, and we owe it to our children to do the best possible job on their behalf.

Having directly observed and worked with young people in our community, including youths of both sexes in the detention side of Johnson Youth Center, I am seriously frightened by the bone-chilling stories I hear, and even more so by the attitudes with which they are told. Substance abuse, as I am sure many of us realize, is a formidable and critical issue. Therefore I myself am just now taking the initial steps towards obtaining a CDCI, substance abuse counselor, within the next few years, though the process of obtaining such a title is in itself a multi-faceted, challenging, uplifting and obviously neverending goal.

CLOSING ARGUMENT: By reversing State Law 14.03.110 requiring active parental consent, meaning they have to sign a form, (assuming they did not misplace it,) mail it back by a deadline time, in order for their son(s) or daughter(s) to participate in any given survey, questionnaire, etc. and, instead, implement a new law, i.e., as defined by HB 408, allowing their children to participate IF they so desire by simply not responding once said parents have been informed, we can now see how points 1, 2, and 3 mentioned above can evolve into a Win/Win/Win situation.

All this can therefore lead to:

- A) More accurate, thorough, pertinent data contributing towards
- B) More persuasive, better documented, inspired grant writing requesting
- C) Specific funding aimed at creating and promoting

3

D) Necessary, improved, expanding services for all our young people, perhaps (at this point) especially but definitely not limited to those at risk.

The prosecution rests. Thank you.

K.G.A.

Kathryn Grace Arlen
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mindmerger@hotmail.com
(907) 586-1872

enc.

SURVEY FORM SUGGESTIONS

1. Make sure **IN THE VERY BEGINNING**, parents are clearly made aware that they need only return the form if they **DO NOT WISH** their child (children) to participate. It may also be prudent to include a space, lines, etc. asking them if they would care to explain why they have decided so. This information, i.e., refusal, may just in itself be helpful.
2. And make sure the deadline date **IS ALSO CLEARLY STATED, IN CAPS**.
3. But, of course, encourage parents to read through the form carefully, perhaps discussing it with their son, daughter, before making this decision. Just this encouraged discussion itself can be helpful.
4. And if both parent and child agree, include possibly a question or two (whatever the survey is for) that they can answer **TOGETHER**.

One last observation: think about how easy it is when you get something in the mail, you want to do whatever it is, order whatever it is, so on, but you misplace the form--you find it later, under the phone book, put in the wrong drawer, got mixed up with homework, the dog ate it, etc. (and God forbid it was your PFD application) and then realize the deadline has come and gone. This change from "active" to "passive" consent could take care of that situation, so long as it is **PERFECTLY CLEAR RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING** that parents are agreeing to their child's possible participation just by doing nothing. And that makes it so much easier.

Subject: HB408

Date: Mon, 18 Feb 2002 16:55:40 -0900

From: "JAHc" <jahc@gci.net>

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

This seems like a very practical bill to pass. We need to accurately assess students' needs. Please pass this legislation. Thank you

Sybil Davis
836 Calhoun Avenue
Juneau 99801

Subject: House Bill 408

Date: Fri, 15 Feb 2002 15:48:30 -0900

From: "Cindy Cashen" <ccashen-ncaddj@ak.net>

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative Bunde,

I am in support of House Bill 408. I feel the current law prevents us from doing what needs done in order to take care of our youth: ask their opinion on issues which affect them.

This bill will allow parents who do not wish their child to participate to retain that right. It also recognizes the reality of the low number of parent consent forms which follow the desired path from school to student to parent and back to school. It just doesn't happen that often.

I have three children and it takes a lot energy to obtain a consent form from them. If I don't take time then the form will not get filled out and even then some of them don't make it back to the teacher/school. It's frustrating.

Please pass this bill so we may have a better idea of what is really happening in our children's lives.

Sincerely,
Cindy Cashen
3167 Pioneer Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801
907 586-3124h
463-2562

Subject: HB 408

Date: Fri, 15 Feb 2002 16:21:27 -0900

From: Ernie Mueller <Ernie_Mueller@ci.juneau.ak.us>

To: "'representative_con_bunde@legis.state.ak.us'" <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

I understand that the House Special Committee on Education is considering HB 408 "An Act relating to questionnaires and surveys administered by the public schools"

This bill would permit public schools to administer questionnaires and surveys to those students whose parents have not denied permission for the student to participate.

Heretofore positive permission has been required for a student to participate in an anonymous survey or questionnaire. Positive permission is often difficult to secure because students and parents often do not understand the value of the questionnaire or survey and simply neglect to give permission .. or to return the permission form the student was given...

Today, most federal grant programs require that basic information about youth be part of the grant application. Under existing law requiring positive parental permission, valid information from a statistically representative sample of school students is virtually impossible to secure. As a result it is difficult, if not impossible, to design services to serve the needs of students, or to secure grants to plan and deliver these services.

In short, unless students can be asked, we don't know what they need. Under existing law, students can't be asked unless an enormous effort is taken to secure permission from parents.

I support HB 408. I have worked with youth programs throughout Alaska my entire adult life. Many of the programs I have worked with are research based..without the ability to gather information, we can't get the basic research needed to design programs or to find out whether they work or not..

Thank you for bringing this bill forward...

Ernie Mueller
Juneau

Subject: I support house bill 408

Date: Fri, 15 Feb 2002 23:07:03 +0000

From: "Monique Wheeler" <monique_wheeler@hotmail.com>

**To: Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us**

My name is Monique Wheeler at I live at 348 West 12th Street in Juneau. I am writing to urge you to support house bill 408 which would educational institutions to collect data for statistical analysis.

Thank you,
moinque

Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: <http://messenger.msn.com>

Subject: Bill 408

Date: Sat, 16 Feb 2002 09:59:45 -0900

From: "Joyce/Shepherd" <lynn.shepherd@acsalaska.net>

To: <Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for sponsoring Bill 408. Permitting anonymous surveys in schools will help educators, law enforcement, and public health officials as well as parents gain insights into youth attitudes and behaviors. AS 14.03.110 has hampered our ability to know the nature and extent of risky behaviors amongst youth by preventing administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The YRBS, when administered in the '90's, gave valuable information that resulted in the funding of prevention and counselling programs which have benefited my children and many others.

Please move forward with Bill 408.

Lynn Shepherd
3050 Douglas Highway
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: HB 408 must pass

Date: Sat, 16 Feb 2002 01:28:02 +0800

From: "Kate Boesser" <kateboesser@mail.com>

To: Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative Bunde:

Please see that HB 408 passes quick! I understand that even the original writer of the bill which made parental survey a must has decided to vote for HB 408!

I have taught in Chatham District for 8 years, and the past 2 1/2 years have been doing grant administration for drug and alcohol abuse prevention. You must understand that not only can teachers not make important decisions without survey information, but grants can not get funded without statistics. Education starts with evaluation, to see where we're at, what's working, what needs to happen. Surveys are an essential part of that evaluation. An example is the ASSETS survey, and the SIG ACT survey, both of which give invaluable information regarding youth, substance abuse, and assets in the lives of youth. Without this bill, you are sharply curtailing our ability to help youth and work with where they're coming from. Parental knowledge is one thing..student ability to let us know how to work more effectively is another.

Please pass this bill now.

Sincerely,
Kate Boesser
PO Box 47
Gustavus, AK 99826

907-697-2282

Juneau connection: 586-1710

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Win a ski trip!
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Subject: Support for House Bill 408

Date: Wed, 20 Feb 2002 14:01:54 -0900

From: "Toni-Jo Dalman, Juneau School District, Juneau, AK" <dalmant@jsd.k12.ak.us>

To: Representative_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Bill_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us,
Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us, Representative_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us

I would like to support passage of House Bill 408. This information allows our district and the many agencies serving children to make meaningful and relevant decisions about prevention and treatment programs needed and about their efficacy.

Thank you,

Toni-Jo Dalman



AASB Position Paper Support for Changing the Active Parent Consent Provision to Passive Consent for Student Surveys

AASB supports modifying the requirements for parental or legal guardian permission for a student to participate in a questionnaire or survey administered in a public school by making it easier for school districts to obtain the necessary permission.

The current Alaskan statute requiring Positive Parent Consent has an unintended negative consequence of erecting barriers between school district programs and services which focus on the reduction of risk behaviors among youth and the government and non-profit agencies that fund these efforts. In order to increase accountability among programs and services, we need to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts, we need to gather data relating to risk behaviors and the corresponding assets of youth. In order to collect data, we need to reduce the barriers which interfere with school and agency efforts of collecting data that is confidential, legal, accurate, and relevant.

AASB believes that there are tangible benefits to conducting anonymous student surveys. In these times of accountability and accuracy, our member districts need data with which to weigh the effectiveness of their educational programs, monitor progress toward district wide objectives related to the health, safety, and well being of youth, and direct programs and services to the areas of greatest benefit.

Research and common sense shows us that parents sent an Active Consent Request Form are more likely not to sign and return the form due to apathy or inertia, rather than an objection to the survey itself.

AASB supports legislation which would:

- allow each public school district to establish the policies and guidelines related to student surveys, and
- eliminate the current unfunded mandate by replacing Active Parent Consent with Passive Parent Consent.

AASB supports the efforts of the legislature to provide local boards of education and each community with the tools necessary to increase student achievement and protect the health and safety of children and youth.



Association of Alaska School Boards

Resolution 3.16

REVISE PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR QUESTIONNAIRES AND SURVEYS ADMINISTERED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AASB supports modifying the requirements for parental or legal guardian permission for a student to participate in a questionnaire or survey administered in a public school by making it easier for school districts to obtain the necessary permission. As a result of the passage of HB 70 in 1999 schools are unable to obtain an adequate sample to provide reliable information.

Rationale: For state and federal grants, school districts need school-by-school data to accurately assess the need and success of current efforts. The low response rates on the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) made this kind of detailed data impossible.

In Anchorage, for example, the Anchorage School District Safe and Drug Free Schools alone had seven grants asking for such data. During the fall 1999 Site Review, federal auditors put the ASD Safe and Drug Free Schools program on notice that it was bordering on non-compliance due to lack of current data. The program lost three grants totaling \$296,915 in lost grant funds.

Other grants have not been applied for because the criteria indicated that without contemporary data, the application would not be competitive. Other youth-serving agencies and programs in Anchorage and throughout the state face similar grant rejection prospects.

Adopted 2001