



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

ROBERT G. HASSON, JR., Ed.D.
COMMISSIONER

August 17, 2018

Dear Principal:

The Maine Department of Education, in collaboration with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, is pleased to announce the sixth administration of the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS) with a survey administration period between **February 4 and 15, 2019**. We are delighted to report that Pan Atlantic Research (PAR), a Portland-based research firm, will continue as the contractor administering the 2019 MIYHS. Pan Atlantic Research has a long track record administering school surveys in Maine and has a proven ability to ensure school confidentiality and protect student anonymity.

Your school has been chosen as part of the following sample(s) for the 2019 MIYHS:

- **K/3 module** (oral health assessment and BMI for students in Kindergarten and 3rd grade)¹
- **5/6 module** (students in grades 5 and 6)¹
- **Middle School (MS) module** (students in grades 7 and 8)²
- **High School (HS) module** (students in grades 9 through 12)²

¹ Because only some schools have been chosen to participate in the MIYHS, your school's involvement is especially critical to its success.

² While all public schools with any grade 7–12 are invited and encouraged to participate in the 2019 MIYHS, your school's participation in the survey will directly increase your county's and/or public health district's ability to get representative data.

Schools participating in the 2019 MIYHS can choose when they would like to administer the survey within the two-week timeframe (February 4 - 15, 2019).

Enclosed are the following materials:

- **2019 MIYHS Information Sheet** – This should answer many of your questions about the survey project.
- **2019 MIYHS School Response Form** – To confirm your school's participation in the 2019 MIYHS; please return this form to Pan Atlantic Research by e-mail/electronically no later than **September 28, 2018**. You will then receive an email confirmation letter from PAR which will include information on the electronic version of the Parental Consent Form.
- **2019 MIYHS Parental Consent Form** – This letter (or the electronic version) must be sent to parents of fifth grade and older students by email or via the U.S. postal service **at least two weeks prior** to your school's survey administration date. Please be sure to use THIS version of the parent consent form, without alteration, and not any previous versions including the 2017 MIYHS. We ask, however, that it be sent no more than six weeks prior to the survey administration.

We do recommend that parents be notified of your school's participation in the 2019 MIYHS at the beginning of the school year by including the following paragraph in beginning of the year notifications to parents:



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This school year, students in this school will be asked to take an anonymous health survey. The data from this survey is used at school, county and state levels. It supports grant funding, assessment of student needs, and the design and evaluation of programs. You will receive more information on this survey closer to when we will be administering it. You have the choice of asking that your child not take this survey. Your child will also have the option of not taking the survey.

- **Example of a 2017 MIYHS School Report** Once reporting requirements are met, schools participating in the 5/6, Middle School, and/or High School modules will receive a school level report. Enclosed you will find a sample page of a High School module school report; you will note that comparisons will be made to the last MIYHS administration, as well as to the State. Similar reports will be made at the SAU level, as long as reporting requirements are met.
- As in the past, the MIYHS protocol is designed to protect student confidentiality and anyone other than principals who request school data will be asked to obtain written permission from the superintendent or designee. Principals whose schools participated in the 2017 MIYHS were provided with access codes for the 2017 survey. Should you have any questions about your school's data and/or have a local data/report request, please contact Reid Plimpton at 207-287-5084.

Please note that an **Administration Manual for MIYHS Coordinators** and the **2019 MIYHS Questionnaires** are still in the process of being finalized. These will be emailed to schools as they sign on to participate in the MIYHS using the School Response Form; they can also be made available upon request.

Should you have any further questions regarding the survey, please contact one of the following people:

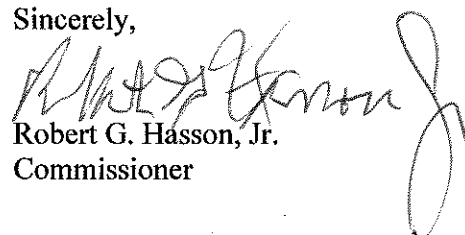
Gregory McHugh, Pan Atlantic Research
miyhs@panatlanticresearch.com
1-844-308-8906 (toll-free) or 207-221-8877 x106

Reid Plimpton, MIYHS Project Coordinator
Office of Disease Control and Prevention
Reid.Plimpton@maine.gov or 207-287-5084

Jean Zimmerman, Health Education & Physical
Education Consultant, Maine Dept. of Education
Jean.Zimmerman@maine.gov or 207-624-6687

I strongly encourage you and your school to participate in this worthwhile initiative to assess the risk behaviors of Maine's youth so that state, community, and school-wide policies regarding health may be implemented.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Hasson, Jr.
Commissioner