



**WYOMING**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities  
for Students to Keep  
Wyoming Strong*

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Dear Principal:

The time is approaching for the Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division to conduct the 2016 Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA). The information gathered from this survey helps all of us at the state, school district and school levels to plan and evaluate prevention efforts designed to reduce student use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The PNA is a unique survey because it not only offers a glimpse of how many 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are using these substances, but it also helps to understand some of the things that may be influencing their decisions.

The PNA is one of the few places where local level data are collected to help you as a school principal understand the unique resources and challenges facing your students as they decide whether to use tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. It also provides valuable information about the prevalence of bullying and other violent behavior experienced by your school's students. The data gathered through the 2016 PNA will be used to create a profile specific to your community, thus emphasizing your school district's unique set of strengths and weaknesses in these areas.

This survey will continue an investment to understand how your students have changed over time. It also allows you to map out risk and protective factors that affect your students' choices. You can use data from the 2016 PNA for data-driven prevention planning, and in evaluating whether your current prevention efforts are associated with any changes.

I urge you to participate in the Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) in the spring of 2016. Please feel free to contact Drew Frazier, Wyoming Dept. of Health, Public Health Division, at [drew.frazier@wyo.gov](mailto:drew.frazier@wyo.gov), 307-777-5017; or Eric Canen, Principal Investigator, Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center, at [ecanen@uwyo.edu](mailto:ecanen@uwyo.edu), 307-760-0307. Thank you for your cooperation in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Jillian Balow

State Superintendent of Public Instruction