

# OPNA Survey – 2025/2026 School Year

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Conducted by

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

### **What is the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment (OPNA) Survey?**

The OPNA Survey is a biennial survey of public, private, and charter school students in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, provided at no cost to schools. It is a project of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) and has been conducted in Oklahoma since 2004.

The OPNA Survey is a robust tool that provides guidance to schools, districts, and communities to improve student outcomes across a variety of issues, with a focus on alcohol, tobacco, other drug use, mental health, academic performance, and violence. It measures problem behaviors and risk and protective factors, which are attitudes, behaviors, and opinions that research has shown to be highly correlated with these health risk behaviors.

### **Is my district required to administer the OPNA Survey?**

State of Oklahoma Statute {§70-24-158} requires all public schools to administer either the OPNA Survey or an ODMHSAS-approved alternative survey. Participation is voluntary for non-public schools.

### **When can my district/school administer the OPNA Survey?**

The OPNA Survey can be administered during December 2025 – March 2026. Within a school, the survey will ideally be administered to all participating classes during the same class period. This helps prevent students from discussing the questions with classmates who have not yet completed the survey, which could bias the results. **Parental consent letters/forms must be distributed to parents at least two weeks prior to the survey administration date. Templates will be provided by ODMHSAS.**

### **How does my district register for the OPNA?**

Districts, charter schools, and private schools can register to participate in the 2025-2026 OPNA by completing the online registration form available on the ODMHSAS [OPNA Survey webpage](#).

## **How can the OPNA Survey data be used?**

The OPNA Survey collects data on research-based factors that contribute to student success on standardized tests and academic performance, while also aiding in the prevention of substance use and mental health problems. It is the only survey that provides a risk and protective factor profile across four domains: individual/peer, family, school, and community.

Example questions include:

- “If you wanted to get some alcohol (beer, wine, liquor, or other drinks containing alcohol), how easy would it be for you to get some?”
- “Now thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you feel like the work you are assigned is meaningful and important?”

When administrators understand student challenges and opportunities, they can effectively plan for success. Survey results can help your district or school compete for grants, secure funding, and assess the need for specific prevention and intervention services, allowing for the development of a strategic plan.

## **What questions are asked?**

The survey includes questions on mental health; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; violent behaviors; other health risk behaviors; and related risk and protective factors. Questions are designed to measure key behaviors without being overly sensitive, though some may be considered sensitive in certain contexts. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade survey is a shortened version of the 8<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade survey.

The survey is anonymous, and no student's response can be linked to them individually. A copy of the survey instrument will be available for review, and an online demonstration of the electronic survey can be provided on request. School-specific web links to the electronic survey instrument are provided to District Survey Coordinators after registration is completed.

## **What if a parent/guardian does not wish their child to participate?**

District Survey Coordinators will work with schools to distribute passive parental consent letters (or active consent forms if chosen by the school). Passive parental consent forms will inform parents of the study and instruct them to contact the principal's office in writing if they do not wish their child to take the survey. A District Survey Coordinator for each district will work with schools to ensure students whose parents decline consent do not take the survey. Students whose parents decline will be provided an alternate activity during the survey.

## **What if a student does not wish to participate?**

Participation is completely voluntary. At the beginning of the survey period, proctors will read a prepared statement explaining this. Students may skip questions or decline entirely. Students who decline will be given an alternative activity during the survey period.

## **Is student participation anonymous?**

Yes, student participation is anonymous. The OPNA Survey does not ask for the student's name or any identifying information. Students who complete the survey online use an anonymous link.

## **What will students be asked to do?**

Students will complete an online, self-administered questionnaire during one class period. They will select the answers that best match their responses. While some questions may be personal, stress is expected to be minimal due to the anonymous and voluntary nature of participation. All questions are self-reported, and no physical tests are involved.

## **How long does it take to complete the survey?**

The survey takes approximately 45 minutes. The survey is administered during a single class period. Students are encouraged to answer as many questions as possible; those who finish early will work quietly at their desks while others complete the survey.

## **How does the District Survey Coordinator help with the survey?**

ODMHSAS trains District Survey Coordinators to coordinate the OPNA survey, including setting survey dates, managing parental consent, training teachers/proctors, and distributing and collecting survey materials.

## **What will schools be asked to do?**

Schools distribute the passive or active parental consent forms at least two weeks before the survey date, track students whose parent/guardian decline participation, and administer the survey during one class period. Electronic surveys are accessed via school devices; students may not use personal devices unless in an online-only school. School-specific survey links, proctor instructions, and scripts are provided to District Survey Coordinators, who will distribute the appropriate survey link and instructions to each school and also work with the district and/or school's IT staff to ensure the links are set up properly on the computers or other devices.

## **How will online schools participate in the OPNA Survey?**

Online schools administer the survey during a normal class period with teachers/proctors observing students, without viewing individual responses.

## **How will the results be made available?**

Data are aggregated and reported at the state, county, school district, and school levels, ensuring confidentiality. Results cover health-related behaviors, substance use, antisocial behavior, mental health, and risk/protective factors. Electronic district and school specific reports will be sent to public

school superintendents and private/charter school lead administrators. County and state data will be publicly available through an online dashboard and reports.

## **Where can I find out more information?**

You may visit the [OPNA Survey webpage](#) to learn more about the survey, review state and county results from previous administrations, and view parent resources.

**For additional questions, contact the OPNA Survey Technical Assistance Team at  
[OPNA@odmhsas.org](mailto:OPNA@odmhsas.org).**

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