Idaho Youth Well-being Assessment (IYWA) FAQ for Administrators

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ASSESSMENT CONTENT

What is the IYWA?

IYWA stands for Idaho Youth Well-being Assessment. It was created by Communities for Youth and is administered in partnership with Idaho LEAs. The Idaho Department of Education facilitates this partnership by connecting Communities for Youth with LEAs that wish to participate. The IYWA measures key components of student well-being, including health perceptions, behaviors, and outcomes; family; school; community; peers and friends; leisure time; substance use; and individual level factors (e.g., sense of purpose or self-awareness). The IYWA At-A-Glance and the complete assessment are both available on the Idaho Department of Education website. Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield and the department have vetted the questions found in the assessment.

What are the benefits of administering the IYWA?

The IYWA provides LEAs with relevant, timely, actionable information about their students' well-being. This helps LEAs/schools make data-driven decisions that support the needs of their students. The IYWA also assists LEAs/schools in applying for grant-based funding related to student well-being, as the applications for such grants require data related to a specific area of prevention or well-being.

Who developed the assessment tool?

The IYWA was created by Dr. Megan Smith, a prevention scientist, adolescent health specialist, and associate professor at Boise State University. Additionally, Idahoans on the state superintendent's mental behavioral health committee (including administrators, counselors, legislators, community partners, health professionals, and Idaho Department of Education staff) provided context-specific input on the IYWA.

Is the IYWA valid and reliable?

Yes. All questions are validated and have been tested in adolescent populations on multiple national and global assessments to ensure reliability.

Can my LEAs customize the IYWA?

Yes. Currently, LEAs can delete (but not add) questions. Some groups of questions require that all items are included. In this case, removing an item would delete the entire group of questions. The IYWA At-A-Glance indicates which items can be removed without deleting the question group. To customize the IYWA for your LEA, communicate this request once you are in touch with Communities for Youth.

Can schools within my LEA customize the IYWA?

No. The same assessment is administered for all schools within a LEA.

ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION

What are the steps for implementation?

If your LEA would like to participate in the IYWA, contact Sophie Stokes at (208) 332-6948 or sstokes@sde.idaho.gov. Your contact information will be relayed to Communities for Youth, and they will reach out via email with more information, as well as an option to meet. LEAs then must obtain 65% of their student body's consent to administer the IYWA in order to meet sample size requirements. Once consent is obtained, they will receive a QR code and electronic link to the assessment. The LEA decides how and when to administer the assessment (the estimated time needed is about 50 minutes).

Is the IYWA required for all students in Idaho?

No. It is not required of anyone. LEAs choose to participate in the IYWA. If your LEA would like to participate, contact Sophie Stokes at (208) 332-6948 or sstokes@sde.idaho.gov.

If my LEA participates in the IYWA, does that mean all students have to take it?

No. According to Idaho Code §33-6001(7), public schools must obtain parent or legal guardian permission before students take any noncurricular-related questionnaire. However, LEAs must obtain at least 65% of their student body's consent in order to administer the IYWA.

How do parents/guardians opt in?

This process is up to each LEA, but parents/guardians will need to sign documentation from their LEA giving permission for their child to take the IYWA. LEAs that have participated in the past suggest integrating the opt-in form into the registration process in the Student Information System rather than sending a paper home to be signed.

When and how is the IYWA delivered and administered?

The IYWA can be administered at any time during the school year, though October is ideal: this is far enough into the school year that students can give informed responses, yet it leaves enough time for LEAs and schools to act on the data. LEAs determine the timeline by working with Communities for Youth, but it must include a consent window of at least two weeks. Once the LEA obtains at least 65% of their student body's consent, they will receive a QR code and electronic link to the assessment (via Qualtrics), which they can use to administer the IYWA.

Is the IYWA available in multiple languages?

The IYWA is currently available in English and Spanish. If your LEA would like to provide a Spanish version, communicate this request once you are in touch with Communities for Youth.

Do students need to answer all the questions on the IYWA?

No. Students can skip any questions they don't feel comfortable answering.

How quickly will IYWA results be available?

Communities for Youth sends participating LEAs a data summary report within six weeks of the administration date.

What action can LEAs take in response to IYWA results?

LEAs can celebrate successes and pinpoint areas in need of attention. They can then set goals based on these areas of need and develop strategies related to these goals. To aid LEAs in this process, Communities for Youth provides a toolkit along with the data summary report. This toolkit explains how to read the report, how to think about using the data, and what prevention services Communities for Youth provides.

How can my LEA get support interpreting its IYWA results?

LEAs can opt into fee-based services with Communities for Youth. These range from consultations to full community meetings. Contact Communities for Youth to discuss which services would best meet your LEA's needs.

PRIVACY

How is student information protected?

The IYWA is an anonymous assessment and does not collect any personally identifiable information. The data is housed at Boise State University, which has strict data security procedures in compliance with the Institutional Review Board.

If a student discloses something harmful on the IYWA, can they be identified?

No. All responses on the IYWA are completely anonymous and cannot be tied to any individual student.

What happens to the IYWA data once it's collected?

Once the IYWA is administered, Communities for Youth downloads the raw data from Qualtrics and deletes the assessment. The data is held in a password-protected folder that is only accessed by the Communities for Youth data analysis team. This team runs statistical analyses on the data, and they compile these findings into a data summary report that is then returned to the LEA. The data summary report includes results for each school in the LEA, as well as the LEA overall.

Does the Idaho Department of Education have access to the IYWA data?

The Idaho Department of Education has access to statewide, regional, and LEA-level data summary reports, but it does not have access to the results of specific schools. The department also does not have access to the raw data; this is only available to Communities for Youth for the purpose of running statistical analyses.

COMMUNICATION

How soon should my LEA begin communicating with stakeholders?

Start communicating about the IYWA as soon as your LEA decides to offer the assessment. LEAs that have participated in the past suggest contacting families via all media resources (email, social media, phone call, in-person events, etc.).

How can I increase buy-in and momentum around the IYWA?

Begin by sharing why your LEA has chosen to participate in the assessment. This message can reach any relevant stakeholders, but school board trustees can be particularly helpful. LEAs have also had success by utilizing Open House or Back-to-School Night, with familiar, trusted faces who promote the assessment and answer questions. Be sure to have several copies of the assessment and IYWA FAQ for Families printed for reference.

How can I increase transparency around the IYWA?

Communicate that the IYWA is completely anonymous and that the results cannot be tied to any individual student. Share the assessment itself and IYWA FAQ for Families in advance by either emailing copies or posting them on your website. Make sure that families know they must opt in if they would like their child to take the assessment, and that it is ultimately their choice. Finally, share your IYWA results with families, community members, school board trustees, and other stakeholders in your LEA.