



HEALTHY MINDS
POLICY INITIATIVE

Data to Inform Prevention Strategies in Schools

HB 2799 by Rep. Mark Vancuren and Sen. John Haste

HB 2799 expands the use of the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment (OPNA), an evidence-based survey on school risk factors that lead to poor education, health and behavioral outcomes. Already used by many schools at the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade levels, the OPNA helps schools and families understand school climate and how to better respond and anticipate the needs of students. It is a critical best practice for informing prevention programs.

The right data can transform prevention, behavioral outcomes

- OPNA reveals sample-size trends, not individualized, identified results.
- Yields a better understanding of **substance use, stress, and suicidality patterns** to help schools develop better prevention programs.
- Allows for **data-informed school planning**, resource allocation, and selection of evidence-based practices.
- Can be used to apply for **grants or other funding** for after-school or school-based programs.
- Ensures that **rural, suburban and urban schools** are represented in formulating state policies addressing youth substance use and mental health.

No additional burdens on schools, students

- Not every student must take it. With parental approval, only a sample of students is needed to yield accurate data. Survey time is minimal and it's available online.
- **No fiscal impact** for schools or ODMHSAS. Existing ODMHSAS funding can absorb it.
- Survey results provide wealth of free data for schools to utilize without requiring the school to create a way to measure these factors.
- ODMHSAS provides **technical assistance** for the administration of the OPNA.
- ODMHSAS can help schools understand the data collected.

The OPNA is being administered to 46% of public schools in Oklahoma. Moving this to 100% will lead to better outcomes for all students.