



HEALTHY MINDS  
POLICY INITIATIVE

## Data to Inform Prevention Strategies in Schools

HB 1103 by Rep. Mark Vancuren and Sen. John Haste

*HB 1103 expands the use of the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment (OPNA) to 100% of Oklahoma schools. Already used by about half of schools at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**WHY NOW? The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the mental health needs of students and behavioral challenges in the classroom – increasing risk by as much as 94%. But we have an incomplete picture of the true issues.**

### Non-invasive data to 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.