

To: District 64 Board of Education  
From: Dr. Lori Lopez, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning  
Date: June 25, 2018  
Re: Key Observations from the 2017-18 Illinois Youth Survey

The Illinois Youth Survey is administered every other year in District 64. This past year, it was administered in January to Emerson and Lincoln 8th graders. The purpose of the Illinois Youth Survey is to better understand youth attitudes and behaviors that can impact student success. Our community and District use this information to determine what actions may be needed to keep students safe and healthy. The survey is completely voluntary and privacy is strictly protected.

This memo identifies key District-level results found in the 2017-18 Illinois Youth Survey. A more detailed report with additional District information can be found on the District website along with reports for each middle school. Because the Illinois Youth Survey has been administered in District 64 since 2002, we have the opportunity to look at trend data over the past several years.

Below is 8th grade data reported for *use of substances in the past year*:

Substance:	2012	2014	2016	2018
Alcohol	23%	26%	19%	21%
Any tobacco product excluding e-cigarettes*			4%	
Tobacco or Vaping Products**				8%
Cigarettes	3%	3%	0%	1%
Inhalants	2%	5%	1%	4%
Marijuana	3%	6%	2%	2%
Illicit Drugs (excluding marijuana)	1%	1%	1%	1%
Prescription Drugs	1%	1%	2%	1%

\*Question asked only in 2016

\*\*New question added in 2018

Other key observations from the 2018 survey include:

- **Comparison to state averages:** At both middle schools, District 64 students report use rates that are lower than the state average for cigarettes, marijuana, and prescription drugs and the same as the state average for illicit drugs (1%). The state average for alcohol use

is 23%. Use is higher than the state average at Emerson (25%) and lower than the state average at Lincoln (16%). The state average for inhalant use is 4%. Use is higher than the state average at Emerson (5%) and lower than the state average at Lincoln (2%).

- **Student perceptions of bullying:** Thirty-four percent of District 64 students report that they have experienced at least one type of bullying in the past year (i.e., called names, threatened, physically assaulted, or cyber-bullied). This is lower than the state average of 43%.
- **Student perceptions of climate:** In general, District 64 student perceptions of school climate (i.e., caring adults, high expectations, meaningful participation, school connectedness) track with state averages with slightly higher rates of school connectedness in District 64. Students report that meaningful participation is an area for growth (i.e., interesting activities, voice in activities/rules, doing “things that make a difference”).
- **Data Disaggregated by Middle School:**
  - Lincoln students report higher rates of parent communication regarding substance use.
  - With the exception of cigarette use, reported substance use rates vary by school with Emerson students reporting higher use rates across all substances.
    - Alcohol: Emerson 25%, Lincoln 16%
    - Any tobacco or vaping products: Emerson 10%, Lincoln 5%
    - Inhalants: Emerson 5%, Lincoln 2%
    - Marijuana: Emerson 3%, Lincoln 1%
  - Of the students who have consumed alcohol in the past year, 39% (Lincoln) and 45% (Emerson) report that the alcohol was supplied with parent permission. Other sources include peers/other adults or accessing alcohol without permission.

## Next Steps

Each middle school has an established Behavior Team that is responsible for reviewing the results of the Illinois Youth Survey. District 64’s Health program comprehensively addresses the risks and consequences of substance use. Last year, we collaborated with the Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation (MCYAF) to revise our Health curriculum to include more comprehensive information about vaping/e-cigarette use. Illinois Youth Survey data suggests that this is a continued area of need for student education. We also see the need to intensify instruction related to alcohol use and to support parents with having conversations with middle schoolers about substance use. In addition to these health-related topics, school leadership teams will continue to address strategies for bullying prevention and opportunities for increased meaningful student participation. These topics directly link to District 64 Strategic Plan

initiatives. Our Year 2 SEL implementation efforts will include a focus on restorative practices, which are key strategies for addressing bullying and bullying prevention.