



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Dear Nebraska School Official:

We are pleased to announce that the 2014 administration of the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System was a success. To those of you who contributed to this accomplishment, thank you. We are now planning for the 2016 administration of SHARP.

SHARP is the umbrella that unites the administration of the only three student health surveys endorsed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS). The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), and the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS) continue to be independent and viable data-producing surveys. SHARP allows all three of these surveys to be administered at the same time.

Since SHARP began in 2010, the survey burden on schools has been reduced, and participating schools and community groups have benefitted from the data collected under this approach. Administration of these surveys was moved to the fall semester, and we now ask for your assistance once every two years. The Fact Book, sent with this letter, highlights health areas that have seen positive change and provides examples of how the data have been used.

The Bureau of Sociological Research at UNL (BOSR) will continue to administer SHARP. A BOSR staff member will contact you this spring to request permission to survey your students during the fall of 2016.

Your support of this project is strongly encouraged even though participation in SHARP is voluntary. The data gathered from these surveys are invaluable. They provide insight into current health behaviors of youth, are relevant to federal reporting requirements, and strengthen local and state grant applications bringing millions of dollars to Nebraska schools and communities.

To learn more about SHARP visit <http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp>, e-mail kmeiergerd2@unl.edu, or call 402-472-3692. Thank you for your interest in the health and welfare of your students and for your willingness to participate in this important project.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner
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Courtney N. Phillips, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
NE Department of Health and Human Services