<date>

<name>

<address>

Dear County and District Superintendents/Charter School Administrators,

I am writing to invite your school district to participate in the Ohio Healthy Youth Environment Survey (OHYES), a statewide survey designed to identify and monitor the health factors that put our students at risk and those that protect them from health problems. The school-based survey is sponsored by the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OHMHAS), the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Education (ODE). The survey is geared to serve each individual Ohio school that participates by providing information at the district and building level wherever possible.

The OHYES survey focuses on health risks, including alcohol/tobacco/drug use, violence and other behaviors that can result in injury and adversely impact development among youth. The survey also includes questions about protective factors, such as nutrition, activities, and attitudes that research has shown to be correlated with positive health outcomes.

The survey, designed to be completed in one school class period, is scheduled for administration October 1-November 20, 2015. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary. Parents will be notified of the survey and asked to sign and submit a form if they wish to exclude their child from participation.

This survey aims to provide important information about students in Ohio that can be used to guide school policy and programs that fit each district's particular needs. This information can inform resource and policy decisions, such as how to design programs that offer effective interventions. The survey also provides useful data to state agencies, county prevention coordinators, community mobilization coalitions, community public health and safety networks, and others so they can support students and school programs.

We ask you to review the enclosed survey description and contact us if you would like additional details about the survey questionnaire. We urge you to support this effort to inform education professionals and policy makers about the health needs of Ohio's youth.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact <contact info>

Sincerely,