

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Attendees^{PV} School Board

John Gesiskie, Chairperson, Norm Burger for Matt Walters, Diane Serfass for Melanie Zipp

Attendees-Administration

Dr. James Konrad-Superintendent Chief Bronson-Police/Security

Attendees-Community

Antionette Gravel-P Frank Saffioti-P Timothy Hatcher-E
Jeremy Livingston-CH Alison Fennell-CH Lindsey Miller-CH
MariClaire Hosking-E Jennifer Rufo-R

Absent-Community

Sandy Perry-R Kristen Rudelitch-P Marsha Overpeck-R
Nicole Serrano-CH Taisha Garcia -CH Amanda Pagano-CH Jolene Pioli-P

Topic - School Safety and Bullying- continued 6:30-8:03

Dr. Konrad gave an overview of items that were discussed at the August 13th meeting. Then he presented an agenda for discussion this evening. (See attached) Some items he highlighted were that PV takes a proactive approach to providing a safe school climate, reinforcing positive behavior for such things as perfect attendance, holding monthly assemblies at all grade levels. Progressive discipline was explained to the group. Teaching the students that they need to respect everyone's personal boundaries and always be aware that their outside behavior can affect discipline in the school environment.

Social media remains an area of concern for all schools not just PV. Sometimes students post something online after school hours and it is then turned into Administration at a later date. Once this happens, Administration follows thru with an investigation depending on the content of the post. Parent involvement is needed to help monitor the child's activity after school hours to assist in combating this problem. We ask that you contact the school for the facts of incidents before posting on social media. Remember certain information can't be shared immediately due to ongoing investigations on certain incidents. Social media is here to stay so use it wisely! Once posted it is there forever! The committee was asked to share the facts they learn here at the CAC meeting with the community they represent. This should help to avoid non-fact postings.

Bullying and student conflict is at all grade levels in all schools. Here at PV it will be addressed with all involved in each incident. (Students, parents, school counselors and administration) PV is not seeing as much as the public reports. We have less than 10% range in students on self-reporting surveys.

Behavior on the bus was a topic as well. Dr. Konrad presented a bus incident report and a bus conduct report to share with the committee. (See attached). Vaping is a large problem in today's society. When

asked, where did you get the vape? Most answers were from a friend, family member, and even parents was the replies from the students. It was reported that there were 4,175 vape alerts in the High school last year and 839 alerts at the Middle school. PV has vaping monitors installed in the bathrooms. Ways to deter some of this from happening is by limiting hall passes and installing cameras in low light & blind corners around the buildings. Dr. Konrad provided a handout to the committee on addressing tobacco or nicotine and vaping ([see attachment](#))

Data was reviewed from 2023 Pa Youth Survey (PAYS) ([see attachment](#)) Dr. Konrad reviewed many areas of the survey with the committee.

The 24-25 Safety and Security Report (Act 44) was explained by Dr. Konrad. This report is annually presented to the Board of Education and is submitted to Pa Department of Education. Due to the material, the detailed information is confidential. It has quantitative data on threat assessments, crisis management, parent access to the school, metal detector finds, etc.

Chief Bronson- Our main goal at PV is to make sure we have a safe and secure environment for all students and staff.

Chief personally attends grade level assemblies so the students become familiar with him. He wants his team to be visible throughout the buildings so the students feel comfortable to engage with the team. Visibility is key to creating a safe school environment.

Since taking his position Chief has reached out to Pa State Police in Lehighton to establish a good relationship with them should we need their assistance. Chief gets information on current happenings elsewhere so he knows to look out for copy cats at PV. Video cameras are in all buildings so Chief and his team use them in any investigations necessary.

Most incidents are reported to administration and then to the Superintendent before the Chief becomes involved. If incidents occur outside on PV property, security will inform the Chief before it reaches Administration. They work together as a team to gather all information before notification of any outside agency.

Chief Bronson stated he follows up on the Safe 2 Say comments every morning. If follow thru is needed he notifies the responsible parties and the anonymous report is held until an investigation is completed. Chief personally has been involved with this since 2017.

Chief becomes the coordinator should the PSP need to be involved in any investigation.

Since Act 91 was enacted it allows school police officers to have more authority.

Metal detectors are used at PV, but not on a regular scheduled time or date. Results are best when it is done on random days.

Reasonable Suspicion procedures are in place at PV. Policies are approved to assist with procedures for reasonable suspicion.

Parent resources are available on PV website. (PVbears.org>departments>campus police>"Parent Links"

Group discussion / questions – A question was asked about the number of security and police officers available at PV. For security reasons, it is based on the needs of any given year. Dr. Konrad feels we are in a good place with our numbers. Committee members agreed we have a good mix at all the events happening throughout our buildings. Remember trust is built as the students go thru the grade levels and the students will reach out to our officers if needed. Chief reiterated that everyone at PV works as a team for the good of all students no matter what building. Implementing Hall Pass this year has shown a positive effect on hall incidents to date.

A question was asked on how data relates to what you are seeing today in the schools. You can't totally rely on survey results from the students because some don't participate for fear they are being tracked in some way. It depends also on the data you are looking at and the source where it originated from.

Another question was about having access to google and YouTube during school hours for assignments. Dr. Konrad answered that the teacher can request IT for access when their lesson plans need it. We keep our network as secure as we possibly can.

A suggestion for a future meeting would be to have a parent night on items of interest and live stream it. Dr. Konrad said it has been tried in the past but it doesn't work very well as far as attendance goes. He is open to using short video's on certain topics to be place on PV website for future reference.

This meeting was primarily an information session so very few questions were presented.

Next Meeting: Wednesday October 8, 2025 6:30 - 7:30PM

Next Topic: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in schools

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting – 9/10/25 – 6:30 PM

Order of discussion topics

- 1. Connections to last month – John thanks for providing meeting minutes**
 - a. Proactive approach to safe school climate
 - b. Reinforcing positive behavior
 - c. Monthly assemblies
 - d. Progressive discipline
 - e. Social Media concerns
 - f. Bullying and student conflict will be addressed by administration and counselors
- 2. Police involvement (Chief)**
 - a. Visibility
 - b. Positive student connections to increase safety and trust
 - c. Proactive approach
 - d. Involved with investigations that may be criminal
 - e. Upcoming phone blast
 - f. Parent resources – PVBEARS.ORG, Departments, Campus Police, “Parent Links” on left side of page
 - g. Safe2 Say
- 3. Review Data – 2023 PAYS Survey – remember that this is a survey**
 - a. Taken every 2 years in grades 6,8,10,12
 - b. Parents can have their student opt-out
 - c. Validity and confidence we have about 250 kids per grade x 4 grade levels =1000
 - i. 931 valid responses using validity checks out of 939
 - ii. 10th grade was best represented
 - iii. High participation rate
 - d. Next date is – 11/21/25
 - e. Highlights
 - i. Positive school environment
 - ii. Bullying and frequency of bullying
 - iii. vaping
 - f. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
- 4. 24-25 Safety and Security Report**
 - a. Annual report
 - b. Review document
 - c. Safety Data – Vaping
 - d. 1st time offenders and progressive discipline
- 5. Information Alert – Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center**
 - a. Swatting and hoaxes
- 6. Bussing**
 - a. Incident Report
 - b. Conduct Report
 - c. In 11 school days
 - i. PVE – 1 bus suspension for 1 day
 - ii. PVI – 1 bus suspension for 1 day
 - iii. PVM – 0 bus suspensions but moved seats and visited buses
 - iv. PVH – 1 bus suspension for 1 week

Safety and Security Information Discussed at the Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting

9/10/25

- **Per Act 44 of 2018 district will provide a Safety and Security Report to review school data and safety practices and identify ways to improve safety and security. The report is to be shared with the school board in an executive session before June 30th each year and data is to be submitted to PCCD. PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The information is confidential and is not subject to the Right to Know Law**

Here is what I can tell you:

- **We have MOUs with PA State Police – Fern Ridge and Lehighton**
- **We conduct annual training – 12 hours per year per officer, we have ACT 235 Security in the buildings who can carry firearms, NASRO School training**
- **We have an armed officer in every building**
- **We have increased our security staff significantly in the past 3 years**
- **We believe in community policing being that we all have a shared responsibility to maintain a safe learning environment and to reduce crime and fear of crime**
- **We have grade team meetings with our students and we discuss school safety, safe 2 say, vaping (grades 5-12)**
- **We have a district wide safe team meetings and building specific safe team to address safety concerns**
- **We conduct threat assessments as a team in each building when responding to safety related concerns**
- **Our Staff and Substitutes have a Crisis Response Manual**
- **We conduct monthly fire drills and annual safety drills**
- **Our Security patrol the interior and exterior of the buildings and perform traffic control**
- **Our buildings have live security 24/7 365 days a year**
- **We have improved our interior and exterior cameras in every building in the district and we review footage after issues occur**
- **We use Navigate 360 as a security measure for visitors coming to our buildings during the school day**
- **We have metal detectors and we use them at our discretion**
- **We have Go Guardian Beacon Alerts that notify us if there is school safety related concerning activity on our district issued devices**

Regarding Data

- **Vaping or possession of vapes in the middle and high school is an area we are continuing to address and prevent**
- **We have increased the number of vape detectors in our district**
- **Vaping, harassment and thefts have decreased for the past three years**
- **Over the past 4 years, we have seen fights significantly decline**
- **Police and Security spend a lot of time assisting administration when there are issues in a school**
- **This past school year we saw a significant decrease (about 64%) in citations**
- **Most citations are from vaping and some are from disorderly conduct**
- **In-School Suspension and out of School Suspensions have decreased by over 50% this past school year**
- **Deans of students have helped at PVE, PVI, PVM**
- **We continue to seek out grants to pay for safety and security enhancements**

BUS CONDUCT REPORT

Student's Name		Class - Grade	
Date of Incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Notice	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Notice	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd Notice
Bus No.	Incident Time:	Driver's Name	

NOTICE TO PARENTS

1. The purpose of this report is to inform you of a disciplinary incident involving the student on the school bus.
2. You are urged to both appreciate the action taken by the driver and to cooperate with the corrective action initiated today.

DRIVER'S REPORT:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> VIOLATION OF SAFETY PROCEDURES | <input type="checkbox"/> EXCESSIVE MISCHIEF | <input type="checkbox"/> EATING-DRINKING-LITTERING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY | <input type="checkbox"/> WRITING | <input type="checkbox"/> RUDE-DISOURTEOUS-ANNOYING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIGHTING-PUSHING-TRIPPING | <input type="checkbox"/> SMOKING | <input type="checkbox"/> UNACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ | | |

PRELIMINARY ACTION:

- CHECKED STUDENT'S FOLDER
- HELD CONFERENCE WITH STUDENT
- CONSULTED COUNSELOR
- TELEPHONED PARENT
- _____
- _____
- _____

PRESENT ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT REGRETFUL, COOPERATIVE | <input type="checkbox"/> PLACED ON PROBATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECURRENCES WILL BE REPORTED | <input type="checkbox"/> SUSPENDED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DENIED BUS PRIVILEGE UNTIL _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |

Driver's Signature: _____ Administrator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

If a check is entered in this box, Parent please sign and return: _____

PARENT'S COPY - WHITE

OFFICE COPY - YELLOW

TRANSPORTATION COPY - PINK

DRIVER'S COPY - GOLD



CREATING A SAFER COMMUNITY: ADDRESSING TOBACCO OR NICOTINE VAPING ON PLEASANT VALLEY PROPERTY

Introducing the INDEPTH Program for First Time Offenders
through a partnership with Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc.

The Challenge

Tobacco or nicotine vaping and e-cigarette use are a nationwide concern, and our school district is not immune. This activity poses significant health risks to our students, including nicotine addiction and exposure to harmful chemicals. We believe a strong partnership between the school, home, and community is essential to keeping our students safe and healthy.

Our Goal at PV

Our goal at Pleasant Valley is to educate students, and have them learn from their mistakes. We are committed to fostering a supportive and healthy learning environment where all students can thrive.

Our School's Policy (222)

To protect the well-being of all students and staff, the Pleasant Valley School District has a clear policy regarding the use or possession of tobacco or nicotine vaping products on school grounds. This is a Level 3 disciplinary offense, a policy that is in place to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for everyone.

Partnering for a Solution

- ✓ Parents & Families: Please have an open conversation with your child about the risks of Tobacco and Nicotine vaping. For more information and resources, visit our district website at www.pvbears.org.
- ✓ Staff: We ask that all staff remain vigilant and help enforce our school's policy.
- ✓ Students: If you or a friend need help to quit, confidential support is available from your school nurse or guidance counselor. Your health and well-being are our top priority.

This agreement pertains solely to the possession of tobacco or nicotine vapes. The possession of a THC vape violates policy 227 and may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution.



Parent Expectations:

Parent/Guardian is required to contact Ms. Deborah Hartley with the INDEPTH Program at dhartley@cmpda.cog.pa.us, with the understanding that you have 30 days to reach out, set up, and have your child complete and submit certification of the program.

Understanding the Consequences

To ensure a safe learning environment, the Pleasant Valley School District enforces a clear and consistent policy for all tobacco or nicotine vaping-related offenses. The consequences are progressive and are designed to both educate and deter. **Violations of this policy will be documented and will be considered throughout the student's enrollment at Pleasant Valley School District. The number of recorded offenses will accumulate each year they attend Pleasant Valley School District.**



1st Offense:

- Opportunity to participate in the INDEPTH educational program on the dangers of tobacco or nicotine vaping
- A 1 day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will be issued
- No citation or fine if the program is completed within 30 days



2nd Offense:

- 2 day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will be issued
- A citation and fine will be issued by law enforcement



3rd Offense:

- 3 day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will be issued
- A citation and fine will be issued by law enforcement
- This is for a continued violation of school policy
- A behavior contract will be put in place, which includes restrictions on hallway and bathroom access



4th Offense:

- 4 days of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will be issued
- A citation and fine will be issued by law enforcement
- This is for a continued violation of school policy



5th Offense:

- 5 days of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will be issued
- A citation and fine will be issued by law enforcement
- Expulsion Recommendation





CREATING A SAFER COMMUNITY: ADDRESSING TOBACCO OR NICOTINE VAPING ON PLEASANT VALLEY PROPERTY

Introducing the INDEPTH Program for First Time Offenders
through a partnership with Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc.

INDEPTH Program

The INDEPTH Program, provided by the Carbon-Monroe-Pike County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc., educates students on the negative effects of tobacco or nicotine vaping and provides resources and assistance.

First Time Offender

Per the student handbook, first-time offenders found tobacco or nicotine vaping or in possession of a tobacco or nicotine vape on school property will be issued a one-day out-of-school suspension. Furthermore, first-time offenders are presented with two choices: They may either complete the INDEPTH vape prevention program within 30 days or receive a citation and a fine. It is illegal to be in possession of tobacco or nicotine vapes on school district property. Students who continue to tobacco or nicotine vape, or be in possession of tobacco or nicotine vapes on school district property, will receive progressive discipline up to and including expulsion for repeat offenders.

Student Agreement

I, _____, agree to participate in and complete the INDEPTH Program within 30 days of this date.

Parent/Guardian Agreement

I, _____, agree to enroll my child in the INDEPTH Program. I will contact Ms. Deborah Hartley by email at dhartley@cmpda.cog.pa.us to arrange for their participation and completion of the program. I will complete this process within 30 days and will CC the School Principal and Officer Silliman on the email. I understand that I am responsible for submitting a certificate of completion within this 30-day period. Failure to do so will result in a citation and fine for a first-time offense.

Signatures

We, the undersigned, agree to the terms of this contract and commit to working together to ensure a successful school year.

✓ Student:

_____ Date: _____

✓ Parent/Guardian:

_____ Date: _____

✓ School District Administrator:

_____ Date: _____

✓ School District Police Officer:

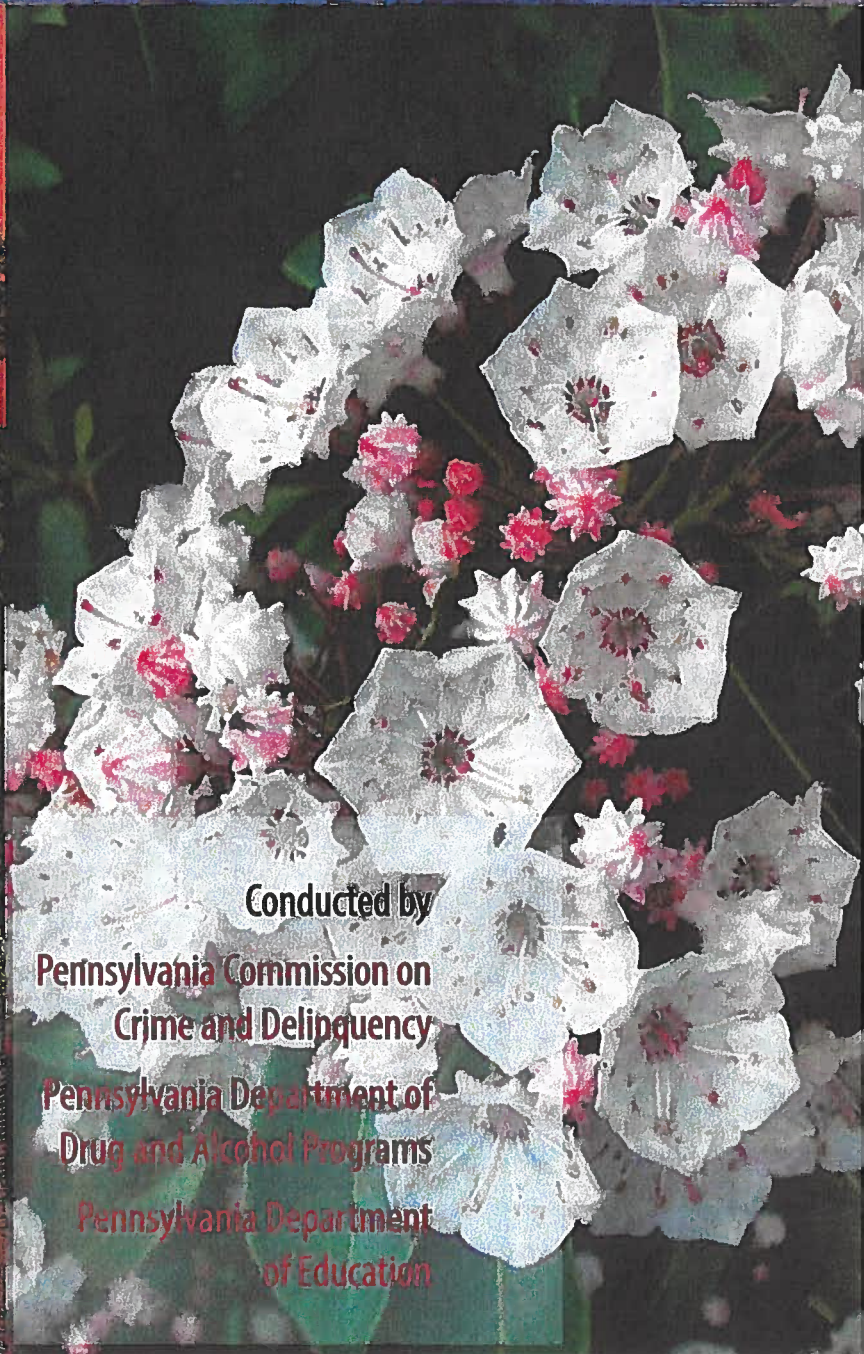
_____ Date: _____



2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

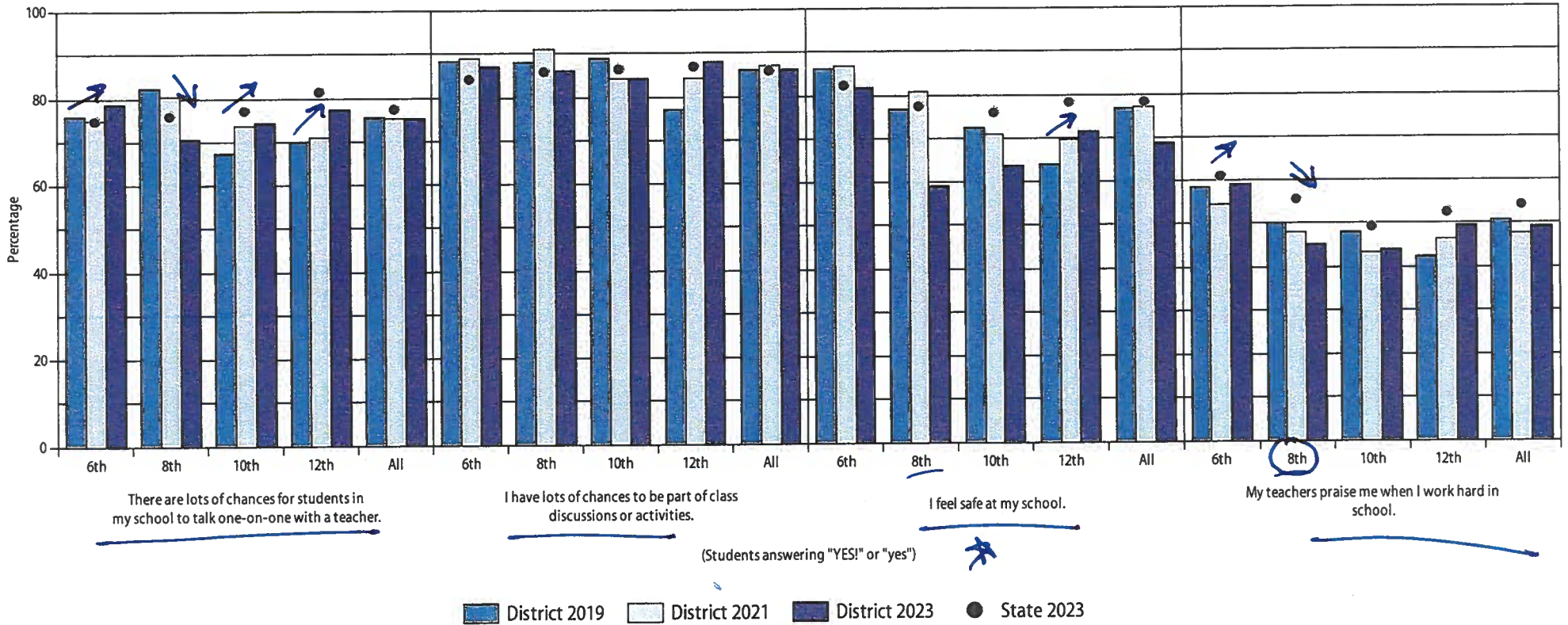
Empowering Communities to Develop
Strategic Prevention Programming

Pleasant Valley School District



Conducted by
Pennsylvania Commission on
Crime and Delinquency
Pennsylvania Department of
Drug and Alcohol Programs
Pennsylvania Department
of Education

Commitment to school - Positive school environment Pleasant Valley School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

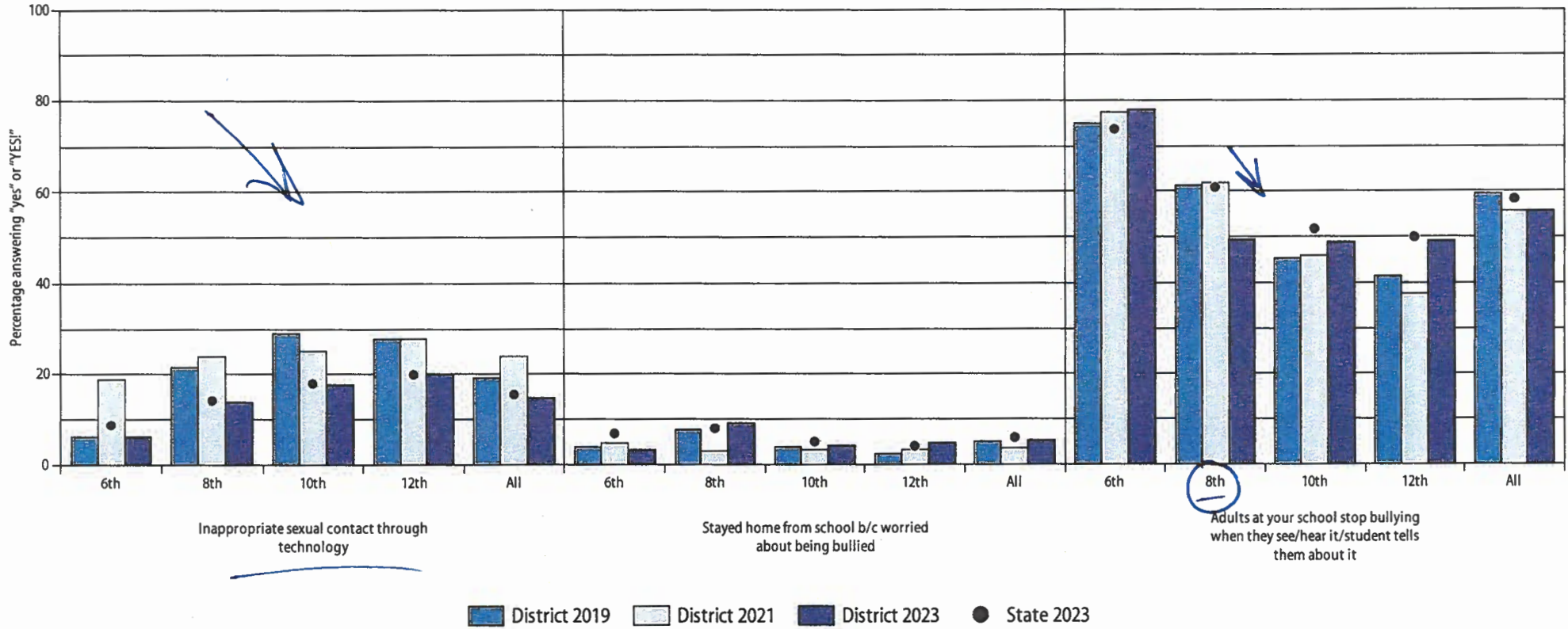


Grade	There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk one-on-one with a teacher.				I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.				I feel safe at my school.				My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	75.9	75.0	78.7	74.8	88.3	88.9	87.0	84.1	86.1	86.7	81.7	82.3	58.3	54.2	58.9	60.9
8th	82.3	80.5	70.5	76.0	87.9	90.9	86.1	85.8	76.8	80.8	59.0	77.5	50.0	48.0	45.2	55.5
10th	67.3	73.7	74.5	77.2	88.7	84.2	84.2	86.3	72.5	71.0	63.5	76.0	48.0	43.3	44.0	49.2
12th	70.1	70.9	77.4	81.4	77.0	84.3	87.7	86.8	64.0	69.8	71.6	78.3	42.3	46.3	49.5	52.4
All	75.6	75.3	75.2	77.4	86.1	87.1	86.2	85.8	76.7	77.1	68.7	78.4	50.7	47.6	49.0	54.2



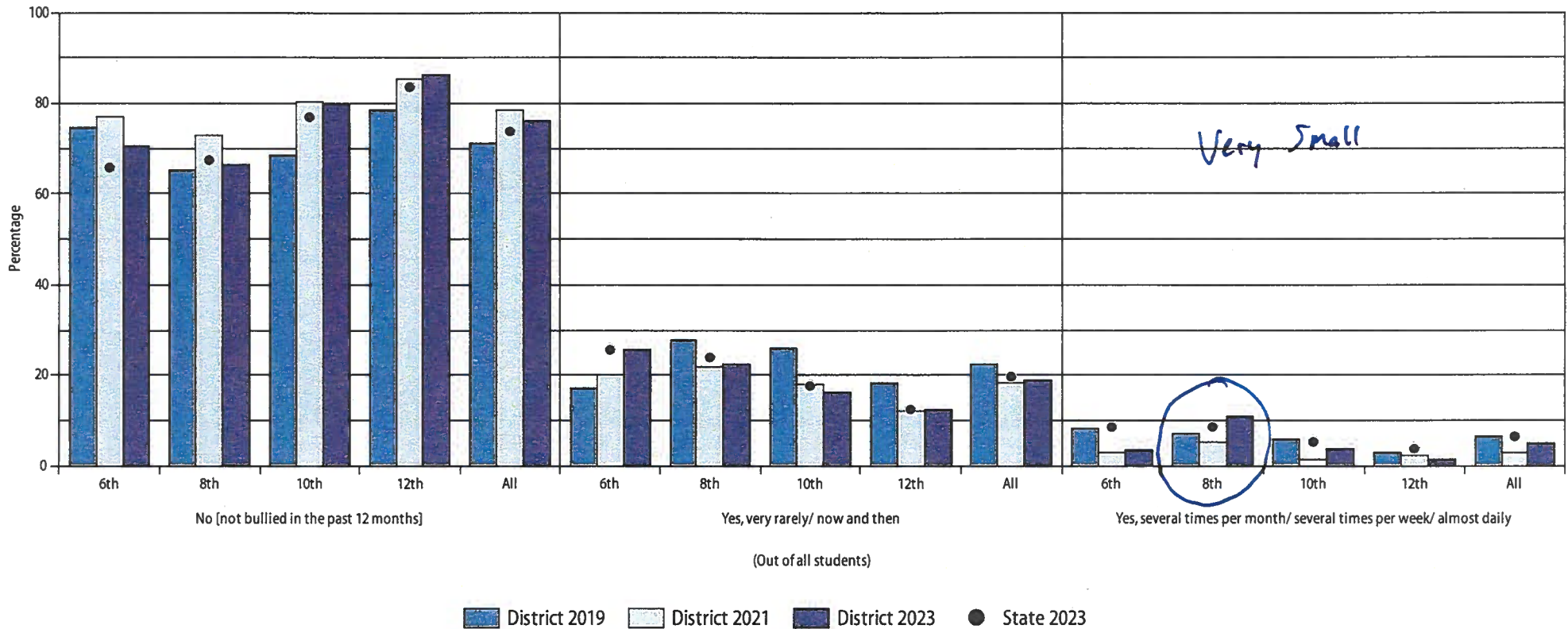
Bullying and Internet safety

Pleasant Valley School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



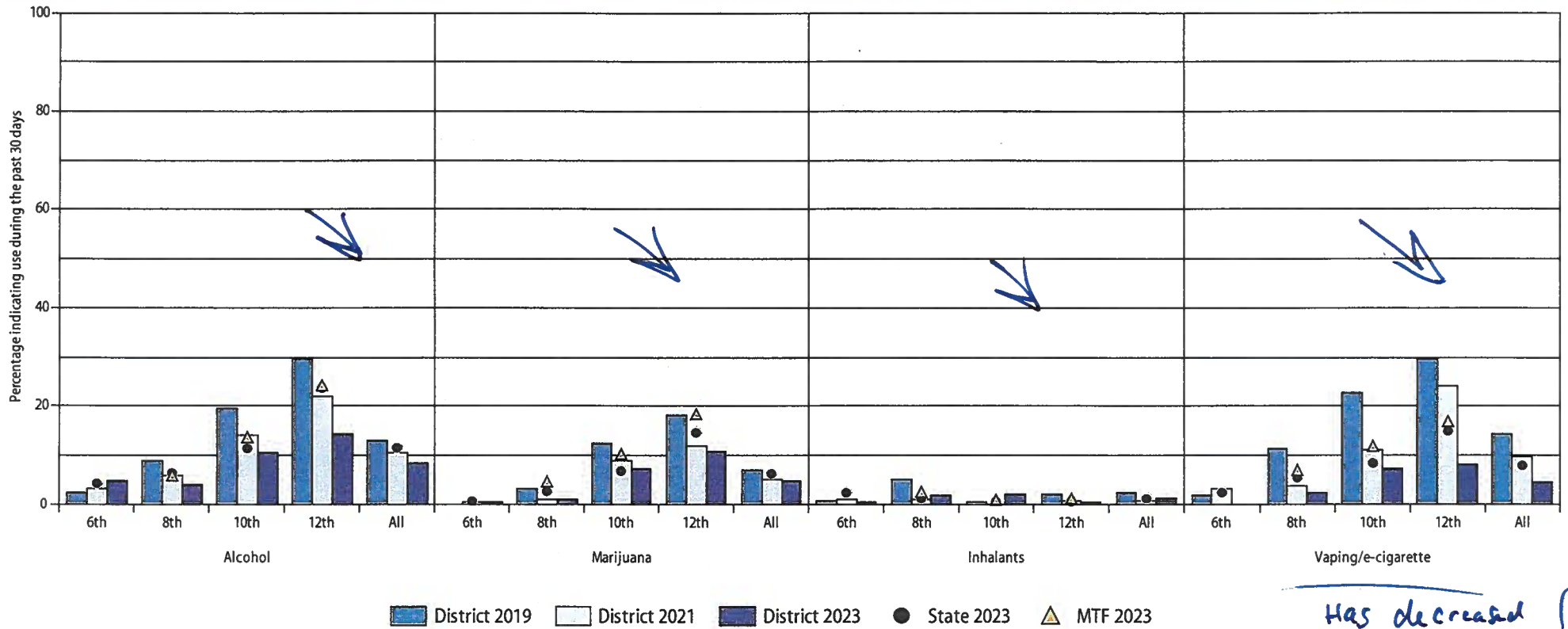
Grade	Inappropriate sexual contact through technology				Stayed home from school b/c worried about being bullied				Adults at your school stop bullying when they see/hear it/student tells them about it			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	6.2	19.0	6.2	8.8	3.9	4.8	3.1	6.8	75.0	77.3	77.9	73.7
8th	21.7	24.1	13.8	14.2	7.6	3.0	9.0	8.0	61.3	61.8	49.5	60.9
10th	28.9	25.0	17.7	18.0	3.6	3.1	4.2	5.0	45.3	45.8	48.7	51.8
12th	28.0	27.9	20.2	20.0	2.4	3.3	4.8	4.0	41.6	37.7	49.3	49.9
All	19.1	23.9	14.7	15.5	4.9	3.5	5.2	5.9	59.5	55.7	55.8	58.4

Frequency of bullying Pleasant Valley School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	No [not bullied in the past 12 months]				Yes, very rarely/ now and then				Yes, several times per month/ several times per week/ almost daily			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	74.7	77.1	70.6	65.7	17.1	20.1	25.8	25.7	8.2	2.8	3.6	8.6
8th	65.2	72.8	66.3	67.4	27.8	21.9	22.6	24.0	7.0	5.3	11.1	8.6
10th	68.3	80.3	79.8	77.0	25.9	18.1	16.4	17.7	5.8	1.6	3.8	5.3
12th	78.6	85.4	86.3	83.7	18.5	12.2	12.3	12.5	3.0	2.4	1.4	3.8
All	71.1	78.5	76.2	73.8	22.4	18.4	19.0	19.7	6.4	3.0	4.9	6.5

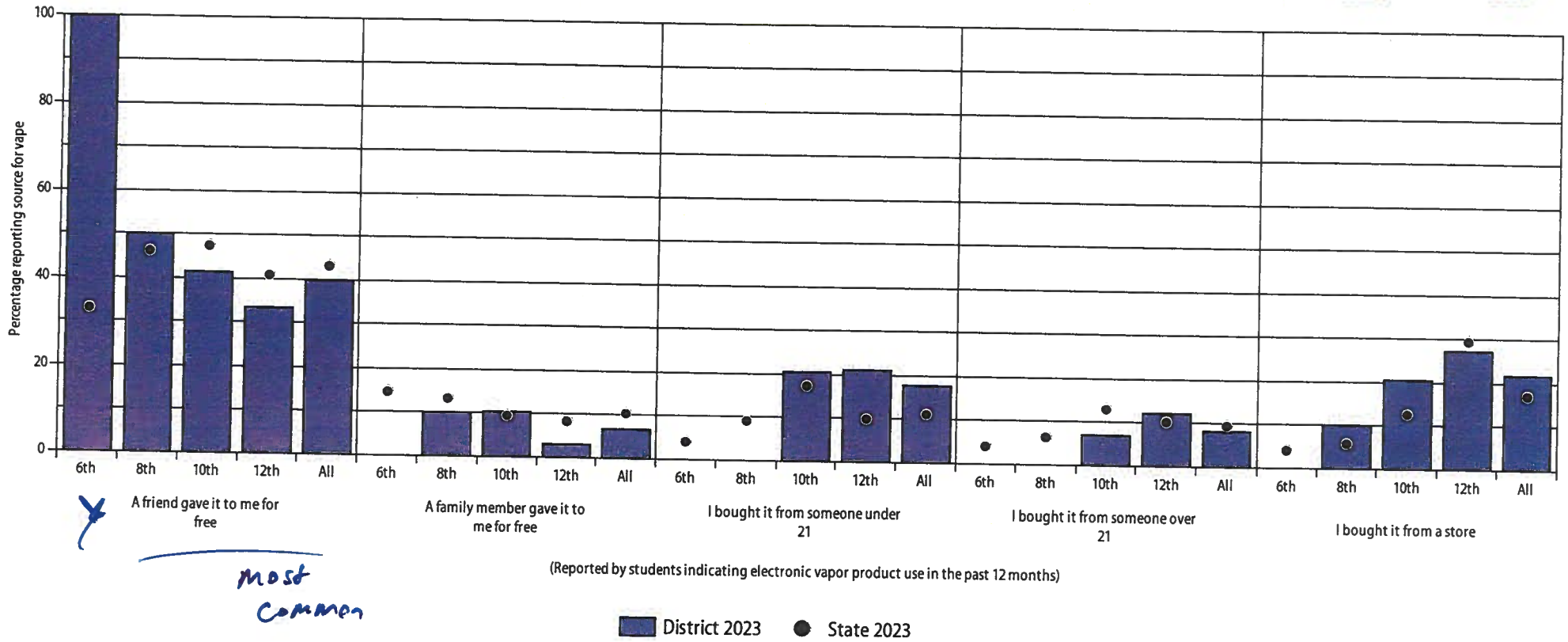
Early initiation and higher prevalence drugs - 30-day use Pleasant Valley School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Has decreased since 2019 -

Grade	Alcohol					Marijuana					Inhalants					Vaping/e-cigarette				
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	MTF 2023
6th	2.4	3.2	4.9	4.3	n/a	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.7	n/a	0.7	1.1	0.4	2.4	n/a	1.7	3.2	0.0	2.4	n/a
8th	9.0	5.9	4.1	6.4	5.9	3.1	1.1	0.9	2.7	4.7	5.0	1.1	1.8	1.2	2.6	11.5	3.8	2.3	5.5	7.0
10th	19.6	14.1	10.4	11.4	13.7	12.4	8.8	7.2	6.8	10.3	0.5	0.0	2.0	0.6	0.9	22.8	11.2	7.3	8.4	11.9
12th	29.5	22.1	14.3	23.8	24.3	18.2	11.9	10.7	14.6	18.4	2.1	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.2	29.7	24.3	8.0	14.9	16.9
All	13.1	10.6	8.5	11.5	n/a	6.9	5.2	4.9	6.3	n/a	2.3	0.7	1.2	1.2	n/a	14.4	9.7	4.5	7.9	n/a

Sources of vape by students who reported vape use Pleasant Valley School District 2023 Pennsylvania Youth Survey



Grade	A friend gave it to me for free				A family member gave it to me for free				I bought it from someone under 21				I bought it from someone over 21				I bought it from a store			
	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023	District 2019	District 2021	District 2023	State 2023
6th	n/a	n/a	100.0	32.9	n/a	n/a	0.0	14.6	n/a	n/a	0.0	4.1	n/a	n/a	0.0	4.1	n/a	n/a	0.0	4.1
8th	n/a	n/a	50.0	46.1	n/a	n/a	10.0	13.3	n/a	n/a	0.0	9.1	n/a	n/a	0.0	6.3	n/a	n/a	10.0	5.7
10th	n/a	n/a	41.4	47.4	n/a	n/a	10.3	9.4	n/a	n/a	20.7	17.3	n/a	n/a	6.9	13.0	n/a	n/a	20.7	12.6
12th	n/a	n/a	33.3	40.9	n/a	n/a	3.0	8.3	n/a	n/a	21.2	9.9	n/a	n/a	12.1	10.2	n/a	n/a	27.3	29.4
All	n/a	n/a	39.7	43.1	n/a	n/a	6.8	10.3	n/a	n/a	17.8	11.2	n/a	n/a	8.2	9.5	n/a	n/a	21.9	17.1