



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

WIPPS RESEARCH
PARTNERS
WISCONSIN INSTITUTE for PUBLIC POLICY and SERVICE

THE VOICES OF WISCONSIN STUDENTS PROJECT LEARNING, COPING, AND BUILDING RESILIENCE DURING COVID-19

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT? The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin's (UW) Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS) Research Partners, is providing youth from across Wisconsin an opportunity to share their thoughts, concerns, and insights on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students. WIPPS Research Partners will conduct a series of **ZOOM** small group discussions with youth from across Wisconsin to gather in-depth information about how students are coping during the COVID-19 pandemic; to identify concerns and challenges, as well as examples of success and resilience; and to get feedback about what support students need. This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Topics will include:

- What concerns do students have about how school is going for them? What are current sources of stress or anxiety and what challenges are they experiencing?
- What is going well? What new strategies have they developed to cope?
- Where are students turning for help and support with issues they may be having? What kinds of information and support do students say they need? What ideas do students have to improve learning during COVID-19?

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE? Students from across Wisconsin in 6th to 12th grade can participate. Separate sessions will be held for middle and high school students. Focus groups will be held virtually using ZOOM.

WHEN ARE THE FOCUS GROUPS? Sessions will be held in January and February 2021. **See the table on the next page for specific dates and times.**

HOW DO STUDENTS REGISTER FOR A FOCUS GROUP? Click the link here or use the QR code to register – registration takes about 2 minutes to complete. A confirmation email is sent to each student and their parent/guardian once registration is completed. A ZOOM link is sent to each student about 24 to 48 hours in advance of their session.

[Voices of WI Students Focus Groups](#)



ZOOM SESSION DATES AND TIMES

Choose a date/time based on whether your school is in a rural, suburban, or city/urban area.

<i>What best describes the kind of community where your school is located?</i>	<i>Not sure which one to select? These are some examples. Is your community similar to one of these areas? Use your best judgement to choose.</i>	MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 to 8)	HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9 to 12)
Rural community (people, homes and businesses are located far away from one another)	Abbotsford, Albany, Alma, Ashland, Baraboo, Barron, Bayfield, Belmont, Bowler, Bruce, Cedar Grove, Chetek, Eagle River, Edgar, Hammond, Lac du Flambeau, Ladysmith, Manitowoc, Marshfield, River Falls, Stockbridge, Strum, Viroqua, Wisconsin Dells	Thurs, 1/28 6:30 to 8:30 pm Tues, 2/2 10 am to noon Wed, 2/10 3:30 to 5:30 pm	Tues, 1/26 3:30 to 5:30 pm Mon, 2/1 1:00 to 3:00 pm Wed, 2/10 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Suburban community (generally outside of or within commuting distance of a city)	Altoona, Ashwaubenon, Brookfield, Brown Deer, Chippewa Falls, De Pere, East Troy, Genoa City, Greenfield, Hartford, Hartland, Holmen, Howard, Hudson, Kaukana, Kimberly, Kenosha, Middleton, Oregon, Somerset, Superior, West Salem, Weston/Schofield	Wed, 2/3 3:30 to 5:30 pm Tues, 2/9 10 am to noon Thurs, 2/11 6:30 to 8:30 pm	Wed, 1/27 6:30 to 8:30 pm Tues, 2/2 3:30 to 5:30 pm Mon, 2/8 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Milwaukee and Racine (a high concentration of people live or work)	Milwaukee and Racine	Fri, 2/5 3:30 to 5:30 pm Thurs, 2/11 3:30 to 5:30 pm	Mon, 2/1 3:30 to 5:30 pm Tues, 2/9 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Other cities and urban areas (not Milwaukee or Racine, but where a high concentration of people live or work)	Appleton, Beloit, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Janesville, La Crosse, Madison, Neenah, Onalaska, Oshkosh, Sheboygan, Waukesha, Wausau, West Allis	Tues, 2/2 6:30 to 8:30 pm Thurs, 2/4 3:30 to 5:30 pm	Mon, 2/8 6:30 to 8:30 pm Thurs, 2/11 1:00 to 3:00 pm

HOW WILL THE FOCUS GROUPS BE CONDUCTED?

- A maximum of 10 students will be in each group. Each focus group will last about 1.5 to 2 hours.
- Only students and a few members of the WIPPS Research Partners project team will participate in the ZOOM discussion. Teachers, principals, and school staff will not participate in or observe the student discussions.
- Sessions will be conducted using ZOOM and will be recorded to help with the analysis. The recordings and notes will be kept private. Only members of the project team at WIPPS Research Partners and MCW will see the recordings or notes. They will not be shared with parents, teachers, counselors, or anyone at DHS.
- After the focus groups are completed, WIPPS Research Partners and MCW will analyze the information to identify common themes and insights. Findings will be compiled in a summary report and shared with DHS. This information can help DHS and leaders of school, nonprofit, and community organizations make more informed decisions about how to support students during these challenges times.
- Students will NOT be personally identified in the report. Any quotes or comments included in the report will NOT be attributed to students by name or by school. Student names or other identifiable information will NOT be used in the report. Students will be mailed a \$10 gift card in appreciation for their participation.
- Procedures for informed consent and privacy/confidentiality protections were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Sharon Belton, Director of WIPPS Research Partners and Student Voices project manager at sbelton@uwsa.edu or at 715-302-8483.