

2019 Virginia School Climate Survey

Division Report
Grades 6 through 8



Alexandria City Public Schools

The Virginia Secondary School Climate Survey provides schools with an assessment of school climate and safety conditions from the perspective of students and teachers/staff. The purpose of this division-level report is to help identify strengths and weaknesses that can guide efforts to improve school safety and student learning.

This division-level report combines responses from 284 students and 74 teachers/staff from 3 school(s) in your division. Regional results are based on 33,642 students and 4,141 teachers/staff in 85 middle schools. For more information, see the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services [website](#).

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Ways to use this report

1. Share this report with staff, students, and parents. Encourage a common commitment to a positive school climate.
2. Identify school improvement goals, such as increasing student engagement and positive behavior.
3. Document needs for school safety and support programs.
4. Evaluate school improvement efforts since the previous survey.

Scale Results

Here are the results for some key scales from the surveys completed by students and teachers and other school staff. Each scale is composed of a series of items that are averaged into an overall score for your division. Scores were standardized so that the mean score for the state is 10 and the standard deviation is 1. Thus, scores between 9 and 11 are within 1 standard deviation of the state mean. Scores above 11 are more than 1 standard deviation above the state mean in a favorable direction and scores below 9 are more than 1 standard deviation below the state mean (see page 22 for more information). In this division-level report, scores for each middle school in your division were averaged together. Higher scores indicate a more favorable school climate. Scores must be interpreted with care, since they are influenced by many factors, such as school demographic characteristics. Some of these demographics are included below.

Key Scales	Description	Students	Staff
1. Student Support	Staff perceived as supportive, helpful, and respectful of students. (see pages 5, 14 for items)	9.75	8.18
2. Disciplinary Structure	School rules are fair and not discriminatory. (pages 6, 16)	9.37	8.13
3. Academic Expectations	Teachers have high expectations for student learning. (page 4)	8.99	*
4. Student Engagement	Students like school, feel like they belong, and want to learn. (pages 4, 13)	9.84	9.19
5. Prevalence of Teasing and Bullying	Perception that bullying and teasing occurs frequently at school. Higher scores mean less teasing and bullying. (pages 8, 18)	9.30	8.87
6. Aggression toward Staff	Staff reports of student aggression ranging from insults and threats to physical attack. Higher scores mean less aggression. (page 19)	*	8.46
School Characteristics ¹		Your Division	State Average
1. School Size	Average number of students enrolled in your division middle schools	1,208	745
2. Family Income	Average percentage of students in the division eligible for free or reduced price meals	65%	46%
3. Special Education	Average percentage of students in the division receiving special education services	12%	14%
4. English as Second Language	Average percentage of students in the division with English as a second language	37%	9%

*For scale 3, there is no staff version. For scale 6, there is no student version.

¹ Percentages are based on VDOE Fall Membership Records from 2018-19 unless otherwise indicated. Numbers fewer than 10 were not available in the records.

Resources for School Improvement

School Climate and Discipline

- The [Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports](#) (VTSS) is a data-driven decision making framework for establishing the academic, behavioral and social-emotional supports needed for a school to be an effective learning environment for all students.
- The [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support](#) (PBIS) technical assistance center is a federal resource for multi-tiered social, emotional, and behavioral support of students.
- The [School Discipline Consensus Report](#) is a comprehensive resource on school discipline improvement, behavioral interventions, and school-police partnerships.
- The [U.S. Department of Education](#) has many resources on school climate and discipline.
- [Implementing Restorative Justice: A Guide for Schools](#) is a comprehensive tool for school personnel to implement restorative justice. It was developed by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority under a U.S. Department of Justice grant.

Bullying and Harassment

- The federal website, [Stopbullying.gov](#), has extensive information on bullying and cyberbullying.
- The [Oklahoma State Department of Education](#) has information on a variety of evidence-based bullying programs.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs

- The [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) has a list of evidence-based universal programs for mental health and substance abuse.

Gang Prevention

- [Gang Resistance Education And Training](#) (G.R.E.A.T.) is a gang and violence prevention program using classroom instruction delivered by law enforcement officers.
- The [National Gang Center](#) has a wealth of information about gang violence prevention.

Threat Assessment

- Virginia schools are required to have threat assessment teams to prevent violence. Two resources are the [Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services](#) and the [Youth Violence Project](#) at the University of Virginia.

Student Perceptions

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Affective engagement subscale	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I like this school.	Division	3%	16%	62%	18%
	Region	4%	14%	61%	22%
2. I am proud to be a student at this school.	Division	3%	18%	65%	14%
	Region	3%	15%	60%	22%
3. I feel like I belong at this school.	Division	5%	15%	64%	16%
	Region	4%	16%	59%	20%
Academic engagement subscale					
4. I usually finish my homework.	Division	5%	17%	55%	22%
	Region	3%	14%	47%	36%
5. I want to learn as much as I can at school.	Division	1%	8%	41%	50%
	Region	2%	8%	50%	40%
6. Getting good grades is very important to me.	Division	2%	2%	32%	64%
	Region	<1%	4%	30%	65%
Average score across 6 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 6 items above	Division	3.12			
	Region	3.17			

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
7. My teachers expect me to work hard.	Division	<1%	1%	58%	41%
	Region	<1%	2%	46%	51%
8. My teachers really want me to learn a lot.	Division	<1%	7%	48%	44%
	Region	<1%	5%	45%	49%
9. My teachers expect a lot from students.	Division	1%	5%	50%	44%
	Region	<1%	7%	48%	44%
10. My teachers do not really care how much I learn (reverse scored).	Division	38%	47%	11%	4%
	Region	38%	47%	11%	5%
11. My teachers expect me to continue my education after high school.	Division	2%	3%	51%	44%
	Region	1%	5%	51%	43%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 5 items above	Division	3.34			
	Region	3.36			

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STUDENTS

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
12. Students at this school care about other students.	Division	8%	30%	57%	5%
	Region	6%	27%	59%	8%
13. Students at this school get along well with other students.	Division	5%	26%	64%	5%
	Region	4%	23%	63%	9%
14. Students at this school try to understand how other students think and feel.	Division	13%	49%	35%	4%
	Region	11%	43%	39%	7%
15. Students at this school respect other students.	Division	10%	38%	45%	7%
	Region	8%	30%	51%	11%
Average score across 4 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average score across 4 items above	Division	2.52			
	Region	2.63			

STUDENT SUPPORT

Teachers and other adults at this school...	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
16. ...care about students.	Division	1%	9%	58%	32%
	Region	2%	9%	55%	35%
17. ...want students to do well.	Division	<1%	8%	53%	39%
	Region	1%	5%	50%	44%
18. ...listen to what students have to say.	Division	7%	25%	46%	23%
	Region	6%	22%	50%	22%
19. ...treat students with respect.	Division	4%	14%	51%	32%
	Region	4%	13%	53%	30%
Student Willingness to Seek Help					
20. There are adults at this school I could talk with if I had a personal problem.	Division	7%	18%	47%	28%
	Region	8%	18%	46%	28%
21. If I tell a teacher someone is bullying me, the teacher will do something to help.	Division	4%	15%	55%	26%
	Region	5%	13%	52%	31%
22. I am comfortable asking my teachers for help with my schoolwork.	Division	2%	13%	60%	26%
	Region	4%	14%	51%	31%
23. There is at least one teacher or other adult at this school who really wants me to do well.	Division	<1%	7%	43%	49%
	Region	2%	5%	42%	50%
Average score across 8 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 8 items above	Division	3.12			
	Region	3.14			

DISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
24. The school rules are fair.	Division	9%	37%	42%	12%
	Region	9%	27%	51%	13%
25. The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for all students.	Division	13%	29%	40%	18%
	Region	10%	24%	44%	23%
26. Students at this school only receive consequences when they deserve it.	Division	8%	28%	51%	13%
	Region	7%	25%	48%	19%
27. Students are suspended without a good reason (reverse scored).	Division	22%	49%	20%	9%
	Region	27%	44%	21%	8%
28. When students are accused of doing something wrong, they get a chance to explain.	Division	15%	27%	42%	16%
	Region	12%	25%	48%	14%
29. Students are treated fairly regardless of their race or ethnicity.	Division	7%	17%	49%	27%
	Region	6%	12%	46%	36%
30. The adults at this school are too strict (reverse scored).	Division	7%	49%	30%	14%
	Region	9%	52%	27%	12%
Average score across 7 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 7 items above	Division	2.68			
	Region	2.79			

PERSONAL SAFETY

Additional items not included in overall scale, but relevant to safety.	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
31. I feel safe in this school.	Division	5%	24%	55%	16%
	Region	4%	13%	57%	26%
32. If another student talked about killing someone, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	Division	3%	16%	29%	52%
	Region	2%	10%	29%	59%
33. If another student brought a gun to school, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	Division	2%	2%	24%	72%
	Region	1%	4%	21%	74%

VICTIM EXPERIENCES

	Reference Group	Never	One Time	More Than One Time	Many Times
34. A student stole my personal property.	Division	52%	26%	17%	5%
	Region	56%	25%	13%	6%
35. A student physically attacked, pushed, or hit me.	Division	55%	20%	12%	13%
	Region	63%	19%	12%	6%
36. A student threatened to hurt me.	Division	64%	16%	8%	12%
	Region	71%	14%	9%	6%
37. A student said mean or insulting things to me.	Division	34%	17%	19%	30%
	Region	37%	19%	20%	24%
Average score across 4 items, each item scored 0-3					
Average score across 4 items above	Division	0.93			
	Region	0.78			

BULLYING VICTIMIZATION

Use this definition of bullying to answer the questions below:

- Bullying is the repeated use of one's strength or popularity to injure, threaten, or embarrass another person on purpose.
- Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social.
- It is not bullying when two students who are about the same in strength or popularity have a fight or argument.

	Reference Group	Never	Once or Twice	About Once Per Week	More Than Once Per Week
38. I have been bullied at school this year (<i>since school started last fall</i>).	Division	66%	24%	6%	4%
	Region	76%	18%	3%	3%
39. I have bullied others at school this year.	Division	81%	16%	1%	1%
	Region	91%	8%	<1%	<1%
40. <i>Physical bullying involves repeatedly hitting, kicking, or shoving someone weaker on purpose.</i> I have been physically bullied or threatened with physical bullying at school this year.	Division	79%	15%	2%	4%
	Region	86%	11%	2%	2%
41. <i>Verbal bullying involves repeatedly teasing, putting down, or insulting someone on purpose.</i> I have been verbally bullied at school this year.	Division	56%	28%	7%	9%
	Region	65%	24%	5%	6%
42. <i>Social bullying involves getting others repeatedly to ignore or leave someone out on purpose.</i> I have been socially bullied at school this year.	Division	72%	20%	6%	3%
	Region	77%	16%	3%	3%
43. <i>Cyber bullying involves using technology (cell phone, email, Internet, etc.) to tease or put down someone.</i> I have been cyberbullied at school this year.	Division	86%	11%	<1%	2%
	Region	90%	8%	1%	1%

BULLYING BY ADULTS

Use this definition of bullying to answer the questions below:

- A teacher or other adult at school bullies a student by repeatedly punishing or criticizing a student unfairly. This goes beyond what is normal discipline in the school.

	Reference Group	Never	Once or Twice	About Once Per Week	More Than Once Per Week
44. I have been bullied by a teacher at school this year.	Division	85%	9%	3%	3%
	Region	87%	8%	2%	3%
45. I have been bullied by another adult (not a teacher) at school this year.	Division	89%	6%	3%	1%
	Region	94%	4%	<1%	1%

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
46. There are teachers or other adults at this school who make fun of students.	Division	37%	34%	23%	5%
	Region	45%	36%	15%	4%
47. Some teachers or other adults at this school say things that make students feel badly.	Division	32%	33%	25%	10%
	Region	38%	33%	23%	6%
48. Some teachers or other adults at this school pick on certain students.	Division	34%	27%	32%	7%
	Region	39%	30%	23%	8%

PREVALENCE OF TEASING AND BULLYING

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
49. Students in this school are teased about their clothing or physical appearance.	Division	6%	28%	45%	20%
	Region	12%	31%	41%	16%
50. Students in this school are teased or put down because of their race or ethnicity.	Division	23%	43%	25%	9%
	Region	33%	40%	19%	7%
51. There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.	Division	12%	34%	37%	17%
	Region	22%	34%	28%	16%
52. Bullying is a problem at this school.	Division	7%	42%	32%	19%
	Region	21%	45%	22%	12%
53. Students in this school are teased or put down about their sexual orientation.	Division	24%	44%	20%	12%
	Region	33%	40%	18%	9%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 5 items above	Division	2.48			
	Region	2.25			
You have just answered some questions about being teased or bullied in some way.	Reference Group	Yes		No	
54. Did you tell a teacher or another adult at school what happened?	Division	40%		60%	
	Region	36%		64%	

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

	Reference Group	No SRO	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
55. The school resource officer (SRO) makes me feel safer at school.	Division	8%	9%	20%	44%	19%
	Region	3%	5%	13%	47%	33%

[Skip question 56 if student answered “No SRO” to question 55.]	Reference Group	Never	Once or Twice a Semester	About Weekly	Every Day
56. Over the past school year, about how often have you spoken with the SRO who works in your school?	Division	66%	24%	5%	5%
	Region	69%	24%	4%	2%

GANG ACTIVITY

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
57. Are there gangs at your school this year?	Division	16%	17%	66%
	Region	10%	28%	61%
58. Have gangs caused problems at your school this year (e.g., fights, sale of drugs)?	Division	15%	33%	53%
	Region	10%	46%	44%
59. Have you considered joining a gang?	Division	1%	88%	11%
	Region	2%	91%	7%

RISKY BEHAVIORS

60. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?	Percent Reported	
	Division	Region
0 times	75%	83%
1 time	9%	9%
2 or 3 times	11%	5%
4 or 5 times	2%	1%
6 or 7 times	1%	<1%
8 or 9 times	<1%	<1%
10 or 11 times	<1%	<1%
12 or more times	1%	1%

MENTAL HEALTH

In the last 30 days, how often ...	Reference Group	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
61. ...were you sad?	Division	23%	19%	30%	22%	6%
	Region	25%	22%	32%	15%	7%
62. ...were you grouchy, irritable, or in a bad mood?	Division	13%	19%	40%	18%	10%
	Region	17%	21%	36%	17%	8%
63. ...did you feel hopeless about the future?	Division	48%	16%	18%	9%	10%
	Region	53%	17%	16%	8%	7%
64. ...did you have difficulty concentrating on your schoolwork?	Division	18%	15%	31%	20%	15%
	Region	22%	19%	30%	17%	12%
Average score across 4 items, each item scored 0-4						
Average for 4 items above	Division	1.70				
	Region	1.53				

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (only asked of 7th and 8th grade)

During the past 12 months, how often did another student do the following to you at school...	Reference Group	Never	Once	Twice	3 Times	4+ Times
65. ...make unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, or gestures <i>that made you feel uncomfortable?</i>	Division	70%	11%	5%	4%	10%
	Region	70%	12%	5%	3%	10%
66. ...spread sexual rumors about you?	Division	86%	5%	2%	0%	6%
	Region	87%	7%	2%	1%	3%
67. ...touch, brush up against you, grab, or pull your clothing, or corner you in a sexual and unwelcome way?	Division	82%	5%	4%	1%	7%
	Region	85%	7%	3%	1%	4%
68. ...bother you by repeatedly asking you to go out or do something with him/her that you did not want to do?	Division	76%	10%	2%	5%	7%
	Region	85%	6%	3%	2%	5%
Average score across 4 items, each scored 0-4						
Average for 4 items above	Division	0.53				
	Region	0.41				

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND ASPIRATIONS

69. How far do you expect to go in school?	Division	Region
I do not expect to graduate from high school.	1%	1%
I might or might not graduate from high school.	4%	3%
I expect to graduate from high school.	16%	13%
I expect to obtain a Career and Technical Education certificate.	2%	2%
I expect to graduate from a two-year college or technical school.	8%	7%
I expect to graduate from a four-year college.	34%	36%
I expect to complete post-graduate studies (such as a master's or doctoral degree) after graduating from a four-year college.	34%	37%
70. What grades did you make on your last report card?	Division	Region
Mostly A's	22%	33%
Mostly A's and B's	37%	42%
Mostly B's	2%	5%
Mostly B's and C's	26%	14%
Mostly C's	1%	1%
Mostly C's and D's	4%	3%
Mostly D's and F's	7%	1%
71. How many days have you been suspended out of school this year?	Division	Region
I have not been suspended from school this year.	96%	96%
1 day	<1%	2%
2 days	1%	<1%
3 days	<1%	<1%
4 days	<1%	<1%
5 or more days	<1%	<1%
How many different schools have you attended, starting with Kindergarten and including the school you are attending today?	Division	Region
One school since Kindergarten	15%	13%
Two schools since Kindergarten	44%	35%
Three schools since Kindergarten	18%	28%
Four schools since Kindergarten	12%	13%
Five schools since Kindergarten	6%	6%
Six schools since Kindergarten	2%	3%
Seven or more schools since Kindergarten	3%	3%

SURVEY USE QUESTIONS

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
72. Are you interested in seeing the results of this school climate survey?	Division	67%	14%	19%
	Region	69%	15%	16%
73. Have you seen the results of any previous school climate surveys for this school?	Division	3%	83%	14%
	Region	5%	78%	17%

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Student Characteristics	Division	Region
Number of schools	3	85
6 th grade	118	10,252
7 th grade	101	12,302
8 th grade	65	11,088
Total number of student participants	284	33,642
Percentage male	47%	49%
Percentage who receive a free or reduced-price meal at school	51%	30%
Percentage with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)	6%	7%
Percentage with a Section 504 Plan	1%	3%
How long have you been at this school?		
This is my first year in this school.	37%	42%
This is my second year in this school.	31%	35%
This is my third year in this school.	24%	17%
I have attended this school for four or more years.	8%	5%
How many days have you been absent from school this year?		
No absences	16%	17%
1-5 absences	57%	60%
6-10 absences	17%	15%
More than 10 absences	10%	8%
Race and Ethnicity (Students could select more than one category)		
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	<1%
Asian	4%	12%
Black or African-American	24%	10%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%
White	25%	36%
Other race	4%	5%
Hispanic or Latino(a)	34%	27%
Two or more races	9%	9%
Parent Education (highest level parent)		
Did not graduate from high school	15%	9%
Graduated from high school	22%	20%
Graduated from two-year college or technical school	8%	10%
Graduated from four-year college	26%	30%
Completed post-graduate studies (such as a master's or doctoral degree)	28%	31%
Home Characteristics		
Two parents	71%	83%
One parent	28%	16%
No parents	2%	2%
Percentage speaking a language other than English at home	53%	49%

Teacher/Staff Perceptions

Here are the results for each item in the staff survey, grouped into scales where appropriate.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Students generally like this school.	Division	1%	7%	9%	30%	43%	9%
	Region	<1%	2%	5%	22%	55%	16%
2. Students are proud to be at this school.	Division	1%	8%	18%	42%	23%	8%
	Region	<1%	3%	8%	29%	45%	14%
3. Students hate going to this school (reverse scored).	Division	14%	31%	32%	22%	1%	0%
	Region	18%	48%	22%	9%	2%	<1%
4. Students finish their homework at this school.	Division	12%	31%	15%	34%	8%	0%
	Region	8%	17%	18%	36%	18%	2%
5. Getting good grades is very important to most students here.	Division	4%	15%	22%	32%	24%	3%
	Region	2%	7%	12%	31%	35%	13%
6. Most students want to learn as much as they can at this school.	Division	3%	20%	22%	38%	15%	3%
	Region	3%	8%	14%	37%	31%	6%
Average score across 6 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 6 items above	Division	3.80					
	Region	4.29					

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STUDENTS

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
7. Students care about other students.	Division	0%	7%	15%	51%	22%	5%
	Region	<1%	3%	8%	35%	46%	9%
8. Students get along well with other students.	Division	0%	8%	11%	55%	22%	4%
	Region	<1%	2%	7%	33%	50%	7%
9. Students try to understand how other students think and feel.	Division	3%	20%	28%	30%	18%	1%
	Region	2%	6%	17%	42%	30%	4%
10. Students respect other students.	Division	5%	8%	26%	45%	15%	1%
	Region	2%	5%	13%	39%	37%	5%
Average score across 4 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 4 items above	Division	3.77					
	Region	4.31					

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND ADULTS: SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Adults at this school...	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
11. ...care about students.	Division	1%	0%	1%	14%	53%	31%
	Region	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%	39%	55%
12. ...want students to do well.	Division	1%	0%	0%	14%	49%	36%
	Region	<1%	<1%	<1%	4%	36%	59%
13. ...listen to what students have to say.	Division	1%	1%	9%	32%	41%	15%
	Region	<1%	<1%	3%	15%	47%	34%
14. ...treat students with respect.	Division	1%	0%	8%	18%	54%	19%
	Region	<1%	<1%	2%	10%	45%	42%
Willingness to Seek Help							
15. Students know whom to go to for help if they have been treated badly by another student.	Division	1%	1%	4%	26%	47%	20%
	Region	<1%	<1%	2%	14%	53%	31%
16. Students feel comfortable asking for help from adults if there is a problem with a student.	Division	1%	4%	8%	39%	36%	11%
	Region	<1%	1%	6%	28%	48%	17%
17. Students report it when one student hits another.	Division	4%	12%	22%	27%	27%	8%
	Region	<1%	5%	11%	27%	39%	17%
18. Students are encouraged to report bullying and aggression.	Division	1%	3%	0%	23%	42%	31%
	Region	<1%	<1%	2%	11%	40%	46%
19. Teachers/staff take action to solve the problem when students report bullying.	Division	3%	4%	12%	27%	34%	20%
	Region	<1%	1%	4%	14%	42%	37%
20. Teachers/staff know when students are being picked on or being bullied.	Division	1%	5%	23%	39%	24%	7%
	Region	<1%	3%	12%	36%	36%	12%
Average score across 10 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 10 items above	Division	4.60					
	Region	5.04					

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG ADULTS: COLLEGIALITY

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
21. Staff work well with one another at this school.	Division	1%	5%	8%	27%	41%	18%
	Region	1%	2%	4%	18%	46%	29%
22. There is a strong sense of mutual support among the staff at this school.	Division	3%	8%	18%	22%	39%	11%
	Region	2%	4%	7%	21%	39%	28%
23. School staff members trust one another at this school.	Division	5%	7%	16%	24%	43%	4%
	Region	2%	4%	8%	23%	41%	23%
24. This school is a collegial environment for the staff members.	Division	4%	8%	19%	14%	45%	11%
	Region	2%	4%	7%	20%	42%	26%
25. The school administration responds and supports staff when they have problems with student aggression.	Division	23%	14%	16%	15%	24%	8%
	Region	5%	7%	10%	18%	34%	26%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 5 items above	Division	4.05					
	Region	4.71					

DISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
26. The consequence for breaking school rules is the same for all students.	Division	35%	24%	24%	3%	12%	1%
	Region	15%	20%	17%	20%	22%	6%
27. Students at this school only receive consequences when they deserve it.	Division	18%	24%	9%	15%	28%	5%
	Region	5%	10%	12%	22%	39%	12%
28. Students know the school rules for student conduct.	Division	9%	12%	14%	19%	34%	12%
	Region	3%	5%	8%	18%	44%	22%
29. If a student does something wrong, he or she will definitely receive consequences.	Division	41%	30%	12%	11%	5%	1%
	Region	16%	20%	20%	24%	15%	5%
30. Students can get away with breaking the rules at this school pretty easily (reverse scored).	Division	5%	9%	11%	22%	24%	28%
	Region	7%	19%	19%	27%	17%	11%
31. Students are suspended without good reason (reverse scored).	Division	38%	50%	8%	4%	0%	0%
	Region	53%	36%	6%	2%	2%	1%
32. Students get suspended for minor things (reverse scored).	Division	41%	47%	8%	4%	0%	0%
	Region	53%	37%	7%	2%	<1%	<1%
33. When students are accused of doing something wrong, they get a chance to explain.	Division	0%	1%	3%	19%	43%	34%
	Region	<1%	<1%	2%	11%	50%	36%
34. The adults at this school are too strict (reverse scored).	Division	42%	43%	14%	1%	0%	0%
	Region	35%	45%	16%	3%	<1%	<1%
Average score across 9 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 9 items above	Division	3.90					
	Region	4.41					

CONCERNS ABOUT DISCIPLINE AND SAFETY

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
35. I am treated with respect by students at this school.	Division	7%	5%	11%	32%	31%	14%
	Region	2%	6%	9%	23%	42%	17%
36. I feel physically safe at this school.	Division	3%	5%	11%	19%	36%	26%
	Region	<1%	3%	5%	12%	41%	39%
37. I feel there is adequate safety and security in this school.	Division	14%	14%	19%	24%	18%	12%
	Region	2%	4%	6%	17%	40%	30%
38. The disciplinary practices at this school are effective.	Division	32%	16%	24%	14%	9%	4%
	Region	12%	13%	17%	26%	24%	9%
39. Disciplinary policies are clear to school staff members.	Division	26%	23%	18%	16%	12%	5%
	Region	9%	12%	15%	23%	28%	12%
40. The challenges of managing student behavior make me consider leaving this school.	Division	11%	24%	9%	30%	9%	16%
	Region	28%	28%	12%	15%	9%	8%

VIEWS ON SUSPENSION

Zero tolerance is defined as the practice of imposing an automatic and severe punishment for any violation of a certain rule.	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
41. I support the use of zero tolerance at this school.	Division	16%	9%	11%	19%	22%	23%
	Region	8%	11%	14%	22%	24%	22%
42. Zero tolerance sends a clear message to disruptive students about inappropriate behaviors in school.	Division	11%	12%	5%	23%	19%	30%
	Region	6%	9%	10%	23%	28%	25%
43. Suspension makes students less likely to misbehave in the future.	Division	20%	23%	16%	24%	9%	7%
	Region	11%	21%	23%	26%	12%	7%
44. Out-of-school suspension is unnecessary if we provide a positive school climate and challenging instruction.	Division	12%	24%	27%	18%	11%	8%
	Region	15%	23%	24%	22%	11%	6%

PREVALENCE OF TEASING AND BULLYING

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
45. Students in this school are teased about their clothing or physical appearance.	Division	0%	16%	23%	41%	16%	4%
	Region	5%	27%	25%	30%	10%	2%
46. Students in this school are teased or put down because of their race or ethnicity.	Division	5%	30%	24%	27%	11%	3%
	Region	13%	34%	25%	20%	7%	1%
47. There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.	Division	4%	22%	20%	27%	19%	8%
	Region	11%	32%	26%	21%	8%	2%
48. Bullying is a problem at this school.	Division	1%	12%	32%	34%	16%	4%
	Region	7%	27%	30%	27%	8%	2%
49. Students here get teased or put down about their sexual orientation.	Division	3%	30%	24%	27%	9%	7%
	Region	13%	37%	25%	18%	5%	1%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 5 items above	Division	3.48					
	Region	2.93					

BULLYING BY ADULTS

Use this definition of bullying to answer the questions below:

A teacher or other adult at school bullies a student by repeatedly punishing or criticizing a student unfairly. This goes beyond what is normal discipline in the school.

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
50. There are teachers or other adults at this school who make fun of students.	Division	22%	35%	22%	14%	4%	4%
	Region	38%	35%	12%	9%	4%	2%
51. Some teachers or other adults at this school say things that make students feel badly.	Division	16%	24%	23%	30%	4%	3%
	Region	27%	34%	16%	17%	5%	1%
52. Some teachers or other adults at this school pick on certain students.	Division	19%	39%	20%	15%	5%	1%
	Region	38%	34%	13%	9%	4%	1%

STUDENT AGGRESSION TOWARD ADULTS

	Reference Group	No	One Time	More than Once	Many Times
53. A student stole or damaged my personal property.	Division	61%	11%	26%	3%
	Region	74%	12%	12%	2%
54. A student threatened to harm me.	Division	80%	8%	12%	0%
	Region	90%	7%	3%	<1%
55. A student physically attacked, pushed, or hit me.	Division	82%	14%	3%	1%
	Region	92%	5%	2%	<1%
56. A student said rude or insulting things to me.	Division	16%	8%	30%	46%
	Region	39%	17%	28%	16%
57. A student threatened me with a weapon.	Division	99%	1%	0%	0%
	Region	99%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 0-3					
Average score across 5 items above	Division	0.66			
	Region	0.38			

ADULT REACTIONS TO STUDENT AGGRESSION

	Reference Group	Not True	A Little True	Somewhat True	Definitely True
58. They bothered me a lot.	Division	25%	27%	25%	22%
	Region	29%	28%	22%	21%
59. I felt burned out about my job.	Division	27%	19%	17%	37%
	Region	36%	24%	20%	20%
60. It made me think about whether to continue my work in this school.	Division	35%	19%	19%	27%
	Region	48%	18%	15%	19%

GANG ACTIVITY

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
61. Are there gangs at your school this year?	Division	18%	26%	57%
	Region	8%	40%	51%
62. Have gangs caused problems at your school this year (e.g., fights, sale of drugs)?	Division	9%	34%	57%
	Region	5%	51%	44%

THREAT ASSESSMENT

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
63. Does your school use a formal threat assessment process to respond to student threats of violence?	Division	39%	5%	55%
	Region	60%	2%	38%

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

	Reference Group	This school does not have an SRO	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
64. The school resource officer (SRO) makes me feel safer at this school.	Division	4%	11%	3%	15%	43%	15%	9%
	Region	<1%	2%	3%	4%	23%	36%	31%

[Skip question 65 and 66 if staff answered “No SRO” to question 64.]	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
65. The school resource officer (SRO) makes a positive contribution to our school.	Division	3%	14%	18%	34%	20%	11%
	Region	<1%	3%	4%	18%	34%	40%

	Reference Group	Never	Once or Twice a Semester	About Weekly	Everyday
66. Over the past school year, about how often have you spoken with the school resource officer who works in your school? (If there is more than one officer at your school, add them together.)	Division	38%	28%	21%	13%
	Region	14%	36%	31%	19%

SURVEY USE QUESTIONS

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
67. Are you interested in seeing the results of this school climate survey?	Division	89%	9%	1%
	Region	82%	11%	7%
68. Have you seen the results of any previous school climate surveys for this school?	Division	31%	57%	12%
	Region	44%	43%	12%
69. Have previous school climate results been used for school planning or improvement in any way?	Division	24%	9%	66%
	Region	40%	7%	54%

Demographic Information for Teacher/Staff Participants

	Division	Region
Number of schools	3	85
Number of teacher participants*	60	3,162
Number of staff participants*	13	875
Percentage female	73%	77%
How many years have you worked at this school?*	Division	Region
1-5 years	73%	58%
6-10 years	8%	19%
More than 10 years	18%	23%

*Teacher/staff could decline to answer.

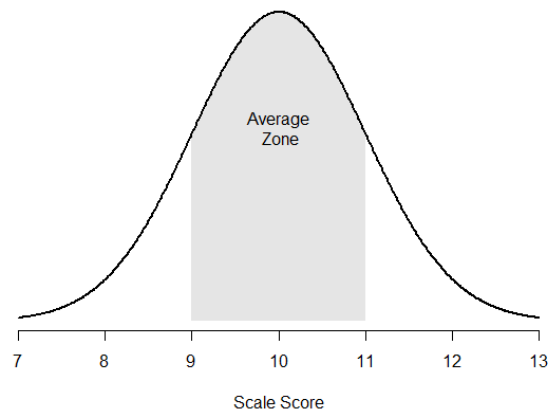
Technical Notes

This is a division-level report that combines results for all middle schools in a single division. School means were averaged without weighting based on school enrollment. Division results are compared to all schools in the same VDOE region of the state.

Most questions for students were answered on a 4-point scale (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree), whereas most questions for teachers were answered on a 6-point scale (strongly disagree, disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, agree, strongly agree). The 4-point scales permit students of different ages and reading levels to answer questions more quickly and easily. The 6-point scales are intended to give teachers the opportunity to make more differentiated judgments. There are some measures (such as disciplinary structure and student support) that are found on both student and teacher surveys, but students and teachers have different conceptions of school climate, so exact comparisons are not feasible.

Student surveys were screened for validity with two questions: (1) “I am telling the truth on this survey” (*strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree*); and (2) “How many of the questions on this survey did you answer truthfully?” (*all of them, all but 1 or 2 of them, most of them, some of them, only a few or none of them*). As of April 15, 2019, a total of 110,889 valid responses were recorded across all surveys administered in the state. There were 7,312 students (6.2%) omitted from the sample because they answered "strongly disagree" or "disagree" to question (1) or "some of them" or "only a few or none of them" to question (2). An additional 31 students were removed as a result of indicating the incorrect grade level (e.g., indicating the student was in grade 6 when the school did not have a grade 6). Another 157 students (0.1%) were omitted due to completing the survey too quickly to have read the questions. Individual school results for students are not presented in the report if fewer than 10 students completed the survey. Similarly, school results for staff are not presented if fewer than 10 staff completed the survey.

The key scales reported on page 2 are scaled scores designed to make them easier to interpret. For each scale, raw scores for student and staff participants within a school were averaged to create school means for students and for staff. The school means across the state were transformed so that the state average is 10 and the standard deviation is 1. As a result, schools with scores between 9 and 11 are in the average range. Schools with scores of 11 or higher are statistically above average and schools below 9 are statistically below average and show a need for improvement.



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