

2020 Virginia School Climate Survey

Division Report
Grades 9 through 12



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 106 students and 258 teachers/staff from 1 school(s) in your division. Regional results are based on 32,914 students and 4,636 teachers/staff in 75 high 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.

Summary Results for Key Scales

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 high 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, 15 for items)	10.78	8.84
2. Disciplinary Structure	School rules are fair and not discriminatory. (pages 6, 17)	10.40	8.08
3. Academic Expectations	Teachers have high expectations for student learning. (page 4)	11.52	*
4. Student Engagement	Students like school, feel like they belong, and want to learn. (pages 4, 14)	11.27	9.66
5. Prevalence of Teasing and Bullying	Perception that bullying and teasing occurs frequently at school. Higher scores mean less teasing and bullying. (pages 8, 19)	10.75	9.35
6. Aggression toward Staff	Staff reports of student aggression ranging from insults and threats to physical attack. Higher scores mean less aggression. (page 20)	*	9.08
School Characteristics ¹		Your Division	State Average
1. School Size	Average number of students enrolled in your division high schools	4,150	1,236
2. Family Income	Average percentage of students in the division eligible for free or reduced price meals	60%	45%
3. Special Education	Average percentage of students in the division receiving special education services	10%	14%
4. English as Second Language	Average percentage of students in the division with English as a second language	32%	6%

*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 2019-20 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.
- [SchoolSafety.gov](#) provides recommendations to districts and schools to improve school safety. It was created by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Education (ED), Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

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.
- The [Ohio School Threat Assessment Training](#) website provides a series of online videos to help schools implement threat assessment protocols. It was created by the Office of the Ohio Attorney General.

Teen Dating Violence

- The [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) provides links to research and resources for teen dating violence prevention.

Student Perceptions

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Affective engagement subscale	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I like this school.	Division	4%	7%	64%	25%
	Region	4%	12%	65%	18%
2. I am proud to be a student at this school.	Division	2%	12%	56%	30%
	Region	3%	16%	62%	18%
3. I feel like I belong at this school.	Division	<1%	18%	55%	26%
	Region	4%	17%	62%	17%
Academic engagement subscale					
4. I usually finish my homework.	Division	2%	18%	58%	22%
	Region	4%	17%	51%	28%
5. I want to learn as much as I can at school.	Division	0%	11%	53%	37%
	Region	2%	8%	56%	34%
6. Getting good grades is very important to me.	Division	<1%	5%	31%	63%
	Region	1%	4%	37%	58%
Average score across 6 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 6 items above	Division	3.19			
	Region	3.10			

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
7. My teachers expect me to work hard.	Division	<1%	4%	45%	51%
	Region	1%	3%	56%	40%
8. My teachers really want me to learn a lot.	Division	2%	7%	44%	47%
	Region	2%	8%	58%	33%
9. My teachers expect a lot from students.	Division	<1%	5%	48%	46%
	Region	1%	7%	53%	39%
10. My teachers do not really care how much I learn (reverse scored).	Division	25%	49%	22%	4%
	Region	19%	57%	19%	5%
11. My teachers expect me to continue my education after high school.	Division	3%	4%	47%	46%
	Region	1%	7%	58%	33%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 5 items above	Division	3.31			
	Region	3.20			

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STUDENTS

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
12. Students at this school care about other students.	Division	8%	30%	55%	7%
	Region	6%	30%	58%	6%
13. Students at this school get along well with other students.	Division	6%	18%	67%	9%
	Region	3%	20%	69%	7%
14. Students at this school try to understand how other students think and feel.	Division	9%	47%	40%	4%
	Region	9%	42%	44%	5%
15. Students at this school respect other students.	Division	10%	29%	51%	10%
	Region	7%	28%	57%	8%
	Average score across 4 items, each item scored 1-4				
Average for 4 items above	Division	2.60			
	Region	2.64			

STUDENT SUPPORT

Most teachers and other adults at this school...	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
16. ...care about students.	Division	3%	8%	66%	23%
	Region	3%	11%	67%	20%
17. ...want students to do well.	Division	3%	6%	58%	33%
	Region	2%	8%	65%	26%
18. ...listen to what students have to say.	Division	6%	23%	54%	17%
	Region	6%	27%	54%	12%
19. ...treat students with respect.	Division	3%	7%	65%	25%
	Region	4%	14%	64%	18%
Student Willingness to Seek Help					
20. There are adults at this school I could talk with if I had a personal problem.	Division	8%	21%	44%	27%
	Region	7%	19%	50%	24%
21. If I tell a teacher someone is bullying me, the teacher will do something to help.	Division	2%	10%	63%	25%
	Region	4%	14%	60%	21%
22. I am comfortable asking my teachers for help with my schoolwork.	Division	3%	15%	51%	32%
	Region	4%	14%	57%	25%
23. There is at least one teacher or other adult at this school who really wants me to do well.	Division	3%	3%	47%	47%
	Region	2%	5%	48%	45%
	Average score across 8 items, each item scored 1-4				
Average for 8 items above	Division	3.09			
	Region	3.02			

DISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
24. The school rules are fair.	Division	7%	20%	65%	8%
	Region	8%	26%	56%	9%
25. The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for all students.	Division	21%	27%	40%	12%
	Region	12%	27%	47%	14%
26. Students at this school are only punished when they deserve it.	Division	8%	32%	47%	13%
	Region	8%	31%	50%	11%
27. Students are suspended without a good reason (reverse scored).	Division	15%	50%	24%	11%
	Region	16%	52%	25%	7%
28. When students are accused of doing something wrong, they get a chance to explain.	Division	15%	25%	54%	6%
	Region	9%	26%	55%	9%
29. Students are treated fairly regardless of their race or ethnicity.	Division	9%	29%	43%	19%
	Region	6%	18%	55%	21%
30. The adults at this school are too strict (reverse scored).	Division	6%	46%	40%	7%
	Region	6%	54%	30%	10%
	Average score across 7 items, each item scored 1-4				
Average for 7 items above	Division	2.61			
	Region	2.69			

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	6%	11%	71%	12%
	Region	4%	14%	65%	17%
32. If another student talked about killing someone, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	Division	4%	10%	45%	41%
	Region	3%	12%	41%	44%
33. If another student brought a gun to school, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	Division	2%	9%	32%	56%
	Region	2%	5%	31%	61%

VICTIM EXPERIENCES

	Reference Group	Never	One Time	More Than One Time	Many Times
34. A student stole my personal property.	Division	66%	22%	8%	5%
	Region	66%	22%	9%	3%
35. A student physically attacked, pushed, or hit me.	Division	80%	9%	9%	2%
	Region	80%	12%	6%	2%
36. A student threatened to hurt me.	Division	86%	2%	9%	3%
	Region	78%	10%	7%	4%
37. A student said mean or insulting things to me.	Division	54%	12%	18%	16%
	Region	49%	16%	18%	17%
Average score across 4 items, each item scored 0-3					
Average for 4 items above	Division	0.53			
	Region	0.55			

BULLYING VICTIMIZATION

Use this definition of bullying to answer the questions below: “Bullying” means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. “Bullying” includes cyber bullying. “Bullying” does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict.

	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	79%	18%	3%	0%
	Region	84%	13%	2%	2%
39. I have bullied others at school this year.	Division	96%	4%	0%	0%
	Region	93%	5%	<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	93%	6%	<1%	0%
	Region	93%	5%	<1%	<1%
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	73%	22%	4%	2%
	Region	75%	18%	4%	3%
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	80%	14%	5%	<1%
	Region	83%	12%	3%	2%
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	94%	6%	0%	0%
	Region	91%	7%	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	88%	11%	<1%	<1%
	Region	88%	8%	2%	2%
45. I have been bullied by another adult (not a teacher) at school this year.	Division	93%	5%	<1%	<1%
	Region	95%	3%	<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	27%	44%	25%	4%
	Region	30%	44%	22%	5%
47. Some teachers or other adults at this school say things that make students feel badly.	Division	17%	38%	35%	10%
	Region	26%	37%	29%	8%
48. Some teachers or other adults at this school pick on certain students.	Division	17%	34%	36%	13%
	Region	26%	37%	28%	9%

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	11%	29%	49%	11%
	Region	13%	35%	41%	12%
50. Students in this school are teased or put down because of their race or ethnicity.	Division	21%	40%	31%	8%
	Region	25%	44%	23%	7%
51. There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.	Division	14%	39%	35%	13%
	Region	16%	39%	32%	13%
52. Bullying is a problem at this school.	Division	20%	45%	27%	8%
	Region	22%	53%	19%	6%
53. Students in this school are teased or put down about their sexual orientation.	Division	25%	38%	32%	5%
	Region	24%	44%	23%	9%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 5 items above	Division	2.35			
	Region	2.26			
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	26%		74%	
	Region	27%		73%	

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	5%	5%	21%	59%	10%
	Region	3%	7%	17%	54%	19%

[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	73%	22%	5%	0%
	Region	76%	20%	3%	1%

GANG ACTIVITY

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
57. Are there gangs at your school this year?	Division	35%	10%	55%
	Region	13%	25%	63%
58. Have gangs caused problems at your school this year (such as fights or sale of drugs)?	Division	27%	18%	55%
	Region	10%	39%	51%
59. Have you considered joining a gang?	Division	0%	92%	8%
	Region	2%	91%	6%

RISKY BEHAVIORS

60. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?	Percent Reported	
	Division	Region
0 days	88%	87%
1 or 2 days	8%	7%
3 to 5 days	2%	3%
6 to 9 days	1%	1%
10 to 19 days	<1%	<1%
20 to 29 days	0%	<1%
All 30 days	0%	<1%
61. During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?	Percent Reported	
	Division	Region
0 times	83%	92%
1 or 2 times	10%	3%
3 to 9 times	5%	2%
10 to 19 times	<1%	<1%
20 to 39 times	2%	<1%
40 or more times	0%	2%
62. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?	Percent Reported	
	Division	Region
0 days	99%	99%
1 day	<1%	<1%
2 or 3 days	0%	<1%
4 or 5 days	0%	<1%
6 or more days	0%	<1%

63. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?	Percent Reported	
	Division	Region
0 times	97%	95%
1 time	3%	3%
2 or 3 times	0%	1%
4 or 5 times	0%	<1%
6 or 7 times	0%	<1%
8 or 9 times	0%	<1%
10 or 11 times	0%	<1%
12 or more times	0%	<1%

MENTAL HEALTH

During the past 12 months...	Reference Group	Yes	No
64. ...did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?	Division	14%	86%
	Region	14%	86%

During the past 12 months...	Reference Group	0 times	1 time	2 or 3 times	4 or 5 times	6+ times
65. ...how many times did you actually attempt suicide?	Division	94%	3%	3%	0%	0%
	Region	94%	3%	2%	<1%	<1%
In the last 30 days, how often ...	Reference Group	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
	Division	15%	11%	40%	24%	10%
66. ...were you sad?	Region	16%	18%	34%	22%	9%
	Division	9%	11%	48%	25%	8%
67. ...were you grouchy, irritable, or in a bad mood?	Region	12%	17%	39%	23%	9%
	Division	34%	19%	27%	13%	7%
68. ...did you feel hopeless about the future?	Region	37%	19%	21%	14%	9%
	Division	10%	14%	24%	36%	17%
69. ...did you have difficulty concentrating on your schoolwork?	Region	16%	16%	27%	23%	19%
	Average score across 4 items, each item scored 0-4					
Average for 4 items above	Division	1.98				
	Region	1.86				

TEEN DATING AGGRESSION

	Reference Group	Never	Once	Twice	3 Times	4+ Times
70. How often have you dated or gone out with someone in the past 12 months?	Division	50%	23%	14%	6%	8%
	Region	50%	22%	10%	4%	13%
[Skip if answered “Never dated”.] During the past 12 months, how many times has someone you dated or went out with...	Reference Group	Never	Once	Twice	3 Times	4+ Times
71. ...physically hurt you on purpose (e.g., hit, pushed, or shook you)?	Division	96%	3%	2%	0%	0%
	Region	92%	4%	2%	<1%	2%
72. ...threatened to hurt you?	Division	97%	3%	0%	0%	0%
	Region	91%	4%	2%	<1%	2%
73. ...called you names or put you down?	Division	86%	8%	5%	2%	0%
	Region	81%	7%	3%	2%	7%
74. ...tried to kiss you or touch you against your will?	Division	93%	6%	2%	0%	0%
	Region	89%	6%	2%	<1%	3%
75. ...tried to make you drink alcohol or use drugs?	Division	91%	4%	4%	0%	0%
	Region	93%	3%	1%	<1%	2%
76. ...continued to bother you or harass you after you stopped going out?	Division	90%	6%	0%	2%	3%
	Region	86%	6%	3%	1%	4%
Average score across 6 items, each item scored 0-4						
Average for 6 items above	Division	0.12				
	Region	0.26				

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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
77. ...make unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, or gestures <i>that made you feel uncomfortable</i> ?	Division	73%	14%	7%	2%	3%
	Region	76%	10%	5%	2%	7%
78. ...spread sexual rumors about you?	Division	91%	7%	2%	0%	0%
	Region	88%	6%	2%	1%	3%
79. ...touch, brush up against you, grab, or pull your clothing, or corner you in a sexual and unwelcome way?	Division	89%	8%	<1%	<1%	<1%
	Region	89%	5%	2%	1%	3%
80. ...bother you by repeatedly asking you to go out or do something with him/her that you did not want to do?	Division	90%	3%	4%	1%	3%
	Region	87%	5%	3%	1%	4%
Average score across 4 items, each scored 0-4						
Average for 4 items above	Division	0.25				
	Region	0.33				

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND ASPIRATIONS

81. How far do you expect to go in school?	Division	Region
I do not expect to graduate from high school.	0%	<1%
I might or might not graduate from high school.	2%	2%
I expect to graduate from high school.	15%	13%
I expect to obtain a Career and Technical Education certificate.	<1%	2%
I expect to graduate from a two-year college or technical school.	5%	7%
I expect to graduate from a four-year college.	46%	42%
I expect to complete post-graduate studies (such as a master's or doctoral degree) after graduating from a four-year college.	31%	33%
82. What grades did you make on your last report card?	Division	Region
Mostly A's	20%	25%
Mostly A's and B's	30%	40%
Mostly B's	9%	8%
Mostly B's and C's	24%	17%
Mostly C's	5%	3%
Mostly C's and D's	7%	5%
Mostly D's and F's	4%	2%
83. How many days have you been suspended out of school this year?	Division	Region
I have not been suspended from school this year.	99%	98%
1 day	0%	<1%
2 days	0%	<1%
3 days	<1%	<1%
4 days	0%	<1%
5 or more days	0%	<1%
84. How many different schools have you attended, starting with Kindergarten and including the school you are attending today?	Division	Region
One school since Kindergarten	8%	9%
Two schools since Kindergarten	9%	9%
Three schools since Kindergarten	40%	34%
Four schools since Kindergarten	24%	24%
Five schools since Kindergarten	11%	12%
Six schools since Kindergarten	4%	6%
Seven or more schools since Kindergarten	3%	6%

SURVEY USE QUESTIONS

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
85. Are you interested in seeing the results of this school climate survey?	Division	71%	17%	13%
	Region	60%	26%	14%
86. Have you seen the results of any previous school climate surveys for this school?	Division	7%	89%	5%
	Region	4%	87%	10%

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Student Characteristics	Division	Region
Number of schools	1	75
9 th grade	25	9,471
10 th grade	27	8,922
11 th grade	26	7,898
12 th grade	28	6,623
Total number of student participants	106	32,914
Percentage who receive a free or reduced-price meal at school	51%	30%
Percentage with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)	8%	9%
Percentage with a Section 504 Plan	7%	5%
Are you male or female?		
Percentage male	46%	45%
Percentage female	54%	50%
Percentage prefer not to answer	0%	2%
Percentage prefer to self-describe	0%	3%
How long have you been at this school?		
This is my first year in this school.	39%	31%
This is my second year in this school.	22%	24%
This is my third year in this school.	15%	22%
I have attended this school for four or more years.	24%	23%
How many days have you been absent from school this year?		
No absences	17%	16%
1-5 absences	50%	58%
6-10 absences	19%	16%
More than 10 absences	13%	10%
Race and Ethnicity (Students could select more than one category)		
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	<1%
Asian	2%	11%
Black or African American	24%	11%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%	<1%
White	31%	38%
Other race	2%	3%
Hispanic or Latino(a)	37%	29%
Two or more races	4%	7%
Parent Education (highest level parent)		
Did not graduate from high school	16%	12%
Graduated from high school	23%	23%
Graduated from two-year college or technical school	7%	9%
Graduated from four-year college	26%	28%
Completed post-graduate studies (such as a master's or doctoral degree)	28%	28%
Home Characteristics		
Two parents	69%	78%
One parent	27%	20%
No parents	4%	2%
Percentage speaking a language other than English at home	50%	48%

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%	6%	5%	40%	44%	5%
	Region	<1%	2%	4%	24%	56%	13%
2. Students are proud to be at this school.	Division	<1%	5%	10%	36%	41%	6%
	Region	<1%	3%	6%	30%	47%	13%
3. Students hate going to this school (reverse scored).	Division	6%	43%	35%	11%	4%	<1%
	Region	14%	48%	24%	10%	3%	<1%
4. Students finish their homework at this school.	Division	7%	22%	32%	29%	10%	0%
	Region	6%	16%	20%	38%	18%	2%
5. Getting good grades is very important to most students here.	Division	2%	10%	22%	34%	28%	4%
	Region	1%	5%	10%	32%	34%	18%
6. Most students want to learn as much as they can at this school.	Division	3%	15%	22%	35%	23%	1%
	Region	3%	8%	16%	39%	29%	5%
	Average score across 6 items, each item scored 1-6						
Average score across 6 items above	Division	3.93					
	Region	4.32					

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STUDENTS

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
7. Students care about other students.	Division	1%	4%	12%	43%	37%	3%
	Region	<1%	2%	5%	32%	51%	9%
8. Students get along well with other students.	Division	<1%	2%	8%	50%	37%	2%
	Region	<1%	1%	4%	30%	56%	8%
9. Students try to understand how other students think and feel.	Division	2%	9%	20%	44%	24%	2%
	Region	1%	4%	13%	42%	35%	5%
10. Students respect other students.	Division	2%	6%	19%	43%	28%	2%
	Region	1%	3%	9%	38%	43%	6%
	Average score across 4 items, each item scored 1-6						
Average score across 4 items above	Division	4.06					
	Region	4.45					

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND ADULTS: SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Most teachers and other adults at this school...	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
11. ...care about students.	Division	0%	2%	<1%	16%	50%	32%
	Region	<1%	<1%	<1%	8%	45%	46%
12. ...want students to do well.	Division	0%	<1%	<1%	13%	51%	35%
	Region	<1%	<1%	<1%	7%	44%	48%
13. ...listen to what students have to say.	Division	0%	<1%	6%	27%	48%	19%
	Region	<1%	<1%	4%	18%	50%	27%
14. ...treat students with respect.	Division	0%	0%	5%	21%	52%	22%
	Region	<1%	<1%	2%	13%	51%	33%
Willingness to Seek Help							
15. Students know whom to go to for help if they have been treated badly by another student.	Division	<1%	2%	9%	31%	46%	12%
	Region	<1%	1%	4%	23%	53%	18%
16. Students feel comfortable asking for help from adults if there is a problem with a student.	Division	<1%	3%	14%	40%	35%	7%
	Region	<1%	2%	8%	35%	43%	11%
17. Students report it when one student hits another.	Division	3%	13%	30%	29%	22%	2%
	Region	1%	7%	17%	33%	31%	10%
18. Students are encouraged to report bullying and aggression.	Division	1%	3%	10%	32%	38%	15%
	Region	<1%	2%	5%	20%	44%	29%
19. Teachers/staff take action to solve the problem when students report bullying.	Division	<1%	3%	8%	31%	44%	13%
	Region	<1%	2%	5%	20%	45%	26%
20. Teachers/staff know when students are being picked on or being bullied.	Division	<1%	9%	25%	37%	25%	3%
	Region	2%	6%	18%	39%	29%	7%
Average score across 10 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 10 items above	Division	4.53					
	Region	4.82					

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%	3%	9%	30%	45%	12%
	Region	1%	3%	5%	22%	47%	22%
22. There is a strong sense of mutual support among the staff at this school.	Division	2%	7%	15%	29%	36%	12%
	Region	2%	4%	9%	25%	38%	22%
23. School staff members trust one another at this school.	Division	2%	5%	15%	38%	33%	7%
	Region	3%	4%	9%	28%	39%	17%
24. This school is a collegial environment for the staff members.	Division	2%	7%	15%	31%	38%	8%
	Region	2%	4%	8%	25%	42%	19%
25. The school administration responds and supports staff when they have problems with student aggression.	Division	10%	9%	19%	25%	29%	8%
	Region	6%	7%	11%	23%	34%	20%
	Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-6						
Average score across 5 items above	Division	4.18					
	Region	4.53					

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	29%	26%	25%	11%	8%	1%
	Region	16%	23%	19%	18%	19%	5%
27. Students at this school only receive consequences when they deserve it.	Division	10%	21%	25%	22%	19%	3%
	Region	6%	12%	14%	25%	33%	8%
28. Students know the school rules for student conduct.	Division	7%	16%	19%	26%	28%	5%
	Region	3%	7%	9%	23%	43%	15%
29. If a student does something wrong, he or she will definitely receive consequences.	Division	30%	28%	19%	16%	6%	1%
	Region	19%	21%	22%	22%	13%	3%
30. Students can get away with breaking the rules at this school pretty easily (reverse scored).	Division	3%	6%	12%	27%	32%	20%
	Region	6%	14%	18%	28%	19%	14%
31. Students are suspended without good reason (reverse scored).	Division	23%	44%	23%	8%	2%	<1%
	Region	41%	41%	12%	4%	2%	<1%
32. Students get suspended for minor things (reverse scored).	Division	26%	42%	21%	10%	2%	0%
	Region	40%	42%	13%	4%	1%	<1%
33. When students are accused of doing something wrong, they get a chance to explain.	Division	1%	3%	5%	25%	47%	19%
	Region	<1%	<1%	3%	17%	51%	28%
34. The adults at this school are too strict (reverse scored).	Division	32%	41%	21%	4%	1%	<1%
	Region	35%	44%	17%	3%	<1%	<1%
	Average score across 9 items, each item scored 1-6						
Average score across 9 items above	Division	3.75					
	Region	4.22					

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	2%	9%	10%	25%	37%	17%
	Region	2%	4%	7%	22%	46%	20%
36. I feel physically safe at this school.	Division	2%	5%	8%	25%	41%	19%
	Region	1%	3%	6%	15%	42%	33%
37. I feel that there is adequate safety and security in this school.	Division	7%	14%	18%	20%	28%	13%
	Region	5%	8%	11%	18%	34%	24%
38. The disciplinary practices at this school are effective.	Division	21%	22%	23%	21%	11%	2%
	Region	13%	15%	19%	27%	20%	6%
39. Disciplinary policies are clear to school staff members.	Division	20%	21%	26%	18%	12%	3%
	Region	11%	14%	18%	24%	25%	9%
40. The challenges of managing student behavior make me consider leaving this school.	Division	17%	23%	19%	20%	9%	11%
	Region	27%	31%	13%	14%	8%	7%

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 discipline at this school.	Division	11%	17%	17%	24%	19%	12%
	Region	10%	15%	15%	20%	23%	17%
42. I believe zero tolerance sends a clear message to disruptive students about inappropriate behaviors in school.	Division	7%	14%	17%	25%	22%	15%
	Region	8%	13%	14%	20%	25%	20%
43. Suspension makes students less likely to misbehave in the future.	Division	15%	28%	26%	21%	5%	5%
	Region	14%	25%	22%	24%	10%	4%
44. Out-of-school suspension is unnecessary if we provide a positive school climate and challenging instruction.	Division	15%	24%	24%	21%	10%	6%
	Region	17%	25%	23%	20%	10%	5%

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	3%	22%	33%	29%	11%	2%
	Region	7%	34%	29%	23%	6%	1%
46. Students in this school are teased or put down because of their race or ethnicity.	Division	4%	23%	28%	31%	12%	2%
	Region	12%	36%	25%	19%	6%	1%
47. There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.	Division	6%	25%	28%	29%	8%	3%
	Region	9%	34%	27%	21%	7%	2%
48. Bullying is a problem at this school.	Division	3%	21%	31%	32%	9%	4%
	Region	7%	32%	32%	22%	5%	1%
49. Students in this school are teased or put down about their sexual orientation.	Division	7%	24%	33%	27%	7%	2%
	Region	11%	35%	29%	18%	5%	2%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 5 items above	Division	3.24					
	Region	2.85					

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	18%	37%	22%	14%	6%	2%
	Region	26%	37%	15%	14%	6%	2%
51. Some teachers or other adults at this school say things that make students feel badly.	Division	12%	29%	25%	25%	9%	<1%
	Region	19%	32%	19%	22%	7%	2%
52. Some teachers or other adults at this school pick on certain students.	Division	18%	37%	21%	18%	5%	<1%
	Region	27%	36%	16%	14%	5%	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	71%	15%	14%	<1%
	Region	79%	12%	8%	1%
54. A student threatened to harm me.	Division	81%	12%	6%	0%
	Region	89%	7%	3%	<1%
55. A student physically attacked, pushed, or hit me.	Division	92%	7%	<1%	<1%
	Region	94%	4%	1%	<1%
56. A student said rude or insulting things to me.	Division	27%	14%	34%	24%
	Region	43%	17%	26%	13%
57. A student threatened me with a weapon.	Division	99%	<1%	<1%	0%
	Region	99%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 0-3					
Average score across 5 items above	Division	0.47			
	Region	0.33			

ADULT REACTIONS TO STUDENT AGGRESSION

	Reference Group	Not True	A Little True	Somewhat True	Definitely True
58. They bothered me a lot.	Division	27%	24%	24%	25%
	Region	28%	28%	21%	23%
59. I felt burned out about my job.	Division	30%	23%	18%	29%
	Region	36%	22%	20%	23%
60. It made me think about whether to continue my work in this school.	Division	40%	18%	19%	23%
	Region	47%	18%	15%	20%

GANG ACTIVITY

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
61. Are there gangs at your school this year?	Division	59%	3%	39%
	Region	24%	21%	55%
62. Have gangs caused problems at your school this year (such as fights or sale of drugs)?	Division	36%	9%	55%
	Region	12%	32%	56%

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	41%	3%	56%
	Region	57%	2%	41%

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	2%	5%	11%	8%	34%	26%	14%
	Region	<1%	3%	4%	5%	26%	34%	27%

[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	<1%	6%	7%	28%	36%	22%
	Region	2%	3%	5%	21%	35%	35%

	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? <i>(If there is more than one officer at your school, add them together.)</i>	Division	37%	45%	14%	4%
	Region	21%	40%	25%	13%

SURVEY USE QUESTIONS

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
67. Are you interested in seeing the results of this school climate survey?	Division	81%	10%	9%
	Region	81%	11%	8%
68. Have you seen the results of any previous school climate surveys for this school?	Division	34%	52%	14%
	Region	45%	43%	12%
69. Have previous school climate results been used for school planning or improvement in any way?	Division	21%	12%	67%
	Region	36%	8%	56%

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR TEACHER/STAFF PARTICIPANTS

	Division	Region
Number of schools	1	75
Number of teacher participants*	216	3,605
Number of staff participants*	42	1,031
Percentage female*	62%	65%
How many years have you worked at this school?*	Division	Region
1-5 years	57%	50%
6-10 years	17%	20%
More than 10 years	27%	30%

*Teacher/staff could decline to answer.

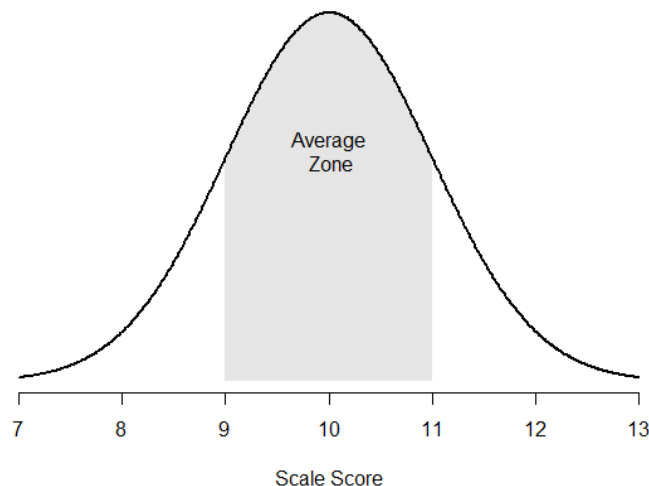
Technical Notes

This is a division-level report that combines results for all high schools in a single division. Division results are compared to all schools in the same VDOE region of the state. Results for students at the division and region levels were computed with weighting based on the enrollment size of each school.

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 March 30, 2020, a total of 106,865 valid responses were recorded across all surveys administered in the state. There were 10,346 students (8.8%) 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 6 students were removed as a result of indicating the incorrect grade level (e.g., indicating the student was in grade 9 when the school did not have a grade 9). Another 500 students (0.4%) were omitted due to completing the survey too quickly to have read the questions. Division results for students are not presented in the report if fewer than 10 students completed the survey. Similarly, division 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, scores for student and staff participants within a division were averaged to create division means for students and for staff. The division means across the state were transformed so that the state average is 10 and the standard deviation is 1. As a result, divisions with scores between 9 and 11 are in the average range. Divisions with scores of 11 or higher are statistically above average and divisions below 9 are statistically below average and show a need for improvement.



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