

2019 Virginia School Climate Survey

Grades 6 through 8

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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 report is to help schools identify strengths and weaknesses that can guide efforts to improve school safety and student learning.

This report is based on responses from 71 students and 9 teachers/staff in your school. State results are based on 110,889 students and 14,756 teachers/staff in 422 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 school. 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). 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)	9.54	
2. Disciplinary Structure	School rules are fair and not discriminatory. (pages 6, 16)	9.05	
3. Academic Expectations	Teachers have high expectations for student learning. (page 4)	8.16	*
4. Student Engagement	Students like school, feel like they belong, and want to learn. (pages 4, 13)	9.17	
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)	9.28	
6. Aggression toward Staff	Staff reports of student aggression ranging from insults and threats to physical attack. Higher scores mean less aggression. (page 19)	*	
School Characteristics ¹		Your School	State Average
1. School Size	Number of students enrolled	1478	745
2. Family Income	Percentage of students eligible for free or reduced price meals	81%	46%
3. Special Education	Percentage of students receiving special education services	10%	14%
4. English as Second Language	Percentage of students with English as a second language	57%	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.	School	3%	27%	55%	15%
	State	6%	15%	59%	20%
2. I am proud to be a student at this school.	School	4%	24%	66%	6%
	State	4%	16%	58%	22%
3. I feel like I belong at this school.	School	8%	18%	61%	13%
	State	6%	18%	56%	20%
Academic engagement subscale					
4. I usually finish my homework.	School	7%	18%	54%	21%
	State	4%	14%	47%	35%
5. I want to learn as much as I can at school.	School	1%	10%	42%	46%
	State	2%	8%	48%	42%
6. Getting good grades is very important to me.	School	0%	1%	32%	66%
	State	<1%	3%	29%	66%
Average score across 6 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 6 items above	School	3.04			
	State	3.14			

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
7. My teachers expect me to work hard.	School	0%	1%	65%	34%
	State	<1%	2%	42%	55%
8. My teachers really want me to learn a lot.	School	0%	10%	55%	35%
	State	<1%	4%	42%	53%
9. My teachers expect a lot from students.	School	3%	6%	56%	35%
	State	1%	7%	45%	47%
10. My teachers do not really care how much I learn (reverse scored).	School	30%	52%	15%	3%
	State	42%	43%	10%	5%
11. My teachers expect me to continue my education after high school.	School	3%	3%	55%	39%
	State	2%	5%	48%	44%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 5 items above	School	3.24			
	State	3.39			

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STUDENTS

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
12. Students at this school care about other students.	School	7%	32%	54%	7%
	State	9%	29%	54%	8%
13. Students at this school get along well with other students.	School	3%	31%	58%	8%
	State	7%	28%	57%	9%
14. Students at this school try to understand how other students think and feel.	School	11%	51%	32%	6%
	State	14%	42%	37%	7%
15. Students at this school respect other students.	School	7%	49%	35%	8%
	State	11%	31%	46%	11%
Average score across 4 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average score across 4 items above	School	2.52			
	State	2.56			

STUDENT SUPPORT

Teachers and other adults at this school...	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
16. ...care about students.	School	1%	10%	62%	27%
	State	3%	9%	54%	35%
17. ...want students to do well.	School	1%	10%	51%	38%
	State	1%	4%	49%	45%
18. ...listen to what students have to say.	School	7%	30%	38%	25%
	State	7%	23%	48%	22%
19. ...treat students with respect.	School	3%	17%	51%	30%
	State	4%	14%	51%	31%
Student Willingness to Seek Help					
20. There are adults at this school I could talk with if I had a personal problem.	School	10%	14%	48%	28%
	State	9%	16%	45%	30%
21. If I tell a teacher someone is bullying me, the teacher will do something to help.	School	3%	14%	56%	27%
	State	5%	14%	50%	30%
22. I am comfortable asking my teachers for help with my schoolwork.	School	1%	17%	52%	30%
	State	4%	14%	50%	32%
23. There is at least one teacher or other adult at this school who really wants me to do well.	School	1%	6%	48%	45%
	State	2%	4%	39%	55%
Average score across 8 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 8 items above	School	3.10			
	State	3.14			

DISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
24. The school rules are fair.	School	10%	42%	35%	13%
	State	12%	28%	47%	13%
25. The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for all students.	School	15%	30%	41%	14%
	State	11%	23%	42%	23%
26. Students at this school only receive consequences when they deserve it.	School	7%	30%	51%	13%
	State	9%	25%	45%	20%
27. Students are suspended without a good reason (reverse scored).	School	20%	46%	18%	15%
	State	27%	42%	22%	10%
28. When students are accused of doing something wrong, they get a chance to explain.	School	17%	31%	35%	17%
	State	14%	25%	46%	15%
29. Students are treated fairly regardless of their race or ethnicity.	School	6%	17%	49%	28%
	State	7%	13%	44%	36%
30. The adults at this school are too strict (reverse scored).	School	4%	46%	28%	21%
	State	10%	48%	27%	15%
	Average score across 7 items, each item scored 1-4				
Average for 7 items above	School	2.61			
	State	2.75			

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.	School	4%	31%	54%	11%
	State	6%	15%	55%	24%
32. If another student talked about killing someone, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	School	3%	17%	34%	46%
	State	3%	9%	28%	60%
33. If another student brought a gun to school, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	School	1%	1%	27%	70%
	State	2%	4%	20%	74%

VICTIM EXPERIENCES

	Reference Group	Never	One Time	More Than One Time	Many Times
34. A student stole my personal property.	School	49%	32%	15%	3%
	State	56%	24%	13%	6%
35. A student physically attacked, pushed, or hit me.	School	48%	18%	17%	17%
	State	59%	20%	14%	8%
36. A student threatened to hurt me.	School	59%	23%	10%	8%
	State	66%	14%	11%	9%
37. A student said mean or insulting things to me.	School	31%	14%	21%	34%
	State	34%	18%	20%	28%
Average score across 4 items, each item scored 0-3					
Average score across 4 items above	School	1.00			
	State	0.86			

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>).	School	68%	20%	7%	6%
	State	70%	21%	4%	5%
39. I have bullied others at school this year.	School	79%	17%	3%	1%
	State	88%	10%	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.	School	79%	14%	3%	4%
	State	83%	13%	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.	School	56%	27%	7%	10%
	State	62%	25%	6%	7%
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.	School	76%	17%	6%	1%
	State	74%	17%	4%	4%
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.	School	86%	11%	1%	1%
	State	88%	9%	2%	2%

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.	School	85%	8%	3%	4%
	State	86%	9%	2%	3%
45. I have been bullied by another adult (not a teacher) at school this year.	School	92%	6%	1%	1%
	State	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.	School	27%	38%	28%	7%
	State	45%	35%	15%	5%
47. Some teachers or other adults at this school say things that make students feel badly.	School	28%	30%	28%	14%
	State	37%	32%	23%	8%
48. Some teachers or other adults at this school pick on certain students.	School	27%	24%	38%	11%
	State	40%	30%	21%	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.	School	6%	20%	51%	24%
	State	11%	25%	41%	23%
50. Students in this school are teased or put down because of their race or ethnicity.	School	28%	30%	32%	10%
	State	33%	39%	20%	9%
51. There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.	School	11%	32%	38%	18%
	State	22%	31%	28%	19%
52. Bullying is a problem at this school.	School	6%	44%	28%	23%
	State	18%	39%	26%	17%
53. Students in this school are teased or put down about their sexual orientation.	School	30%	42%	15%	13%
	State	31%	37%	20%	12%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-4					
Average for 5 items above	School	2.52			
	State	2.36			
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?	School	45%		55%	
	State	41%		59%	

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.	School	8%	11%	20%	42%	18%
	State	5%	6%	13%	45%	32%

[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?	School	66%	20%	8%	6%
	State	66%	25%	6%	4%

GANG ACTIVITY

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
57. Are there gangs at your school this year?	School	18%	18%	63%
	State	12%	28%	60%
58. Have gangs caused problems at your school this year (e.g., fights, sale of drugs)?	School	23%	32%	45%
	State	12%	46%	43%
59. Have you considered joining a gang?	School	1%	85%	14%
	State	3%	89%	8%

RISKY BEHAVIORS

60. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?	Percent Reported	
	School	State
0 times	70%	81%
1 time	11%	10%
2 or 3 times	13%	6%
4 or 5 times	4%	2%
6 or 7 times	1%	<1%
8 or 9 times	0%	<1%
10 or 11 times	0%	<1%
12 or more times	0%	1%

MENTAL HEALTH

In the last 30 days, how often ...	Reference Group	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
61. ...were you sad?	School	27%	17%	23%	27%	7%
	State	26%	20%	31%	15%	8%
62. ...were you grouchy, irritable, or in a bad mood?	School	10%	13%	46%	18%	13%
	State	17%	19%	37%	19%	9%
63. ...did you feel hopeless about the future?	School	39%	23%	17%	10%	11%
	State	54%	15%	16%	8%	7%
64. ...did you have difficulty concentrating on your schoolwork?	School	17%	11%	30%	21%	21%
	State	22%	18%	30%	16%	14%
Average score across 4 items, each item scored 0-4						
Average for 4 items above	School	1.83				
	State	1.56				

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>	School	68%	9%	4%	4%	15%
	State	68%	12%	6%	3%	12%
66. ...spread sexual rumors about you?	School	81%	6%	4%	0%	9%
	State	84%	8%	3%	1%	4%
67. ...touch, brush up against you, grab, or pull your clothing, or corner you in a sexual and unwelcome way?	School	79%	6%	6%	2%	6%
	State	83%	8%	3%	2%	5%
68. ...bother you by repeatedly asking you to go out or do something with him/her that you did not want to do?	School	72%	11%	4%	4%	9%
	State	81%	8%	4%	2%	6%
Average score across 4 items, each scored 0-4						
Average for 4 items above	School	0.64				
	State	0.48				

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND ASPIRATIONS

69. How far do you expect to go in school?	School	State
I do not expect to graduate from high school.	1%	1%
I might or might not graduate from high school.	7%	3%
I expect to graduate from high school.	17%	17%
I expect to obtain a Career and Technical Education certificate.	3%	3%
I expect to graduate from a two-year college or technical school.	7%	8%
I expect to graduate from a four-year college.	34%	33%
I expect to complete post-graduate studies (such as a master's or doctoral degree) after graduating from a four-year college.	31%	34%
70. What grades did you make on your last report card?	School	State
Mostly A's	8%	27%
Mostly A's and B's	37%	41%
Mostly B's	4%	5%
Mostly B's and C's	30%	17%
Mostly C's	3%	2%
Mostly C's and D's	7%	5%
Mostly D's and F's	11%	2%
71. How many days have you been suspended out of school this year?	School	State
I have not been suspended from school this year.	94%	93%
1 day	0%	2%
2 days	3%	1%
3 days	1%	2%
4 days	0%	<1%
5 or more days	1%	2%
How many different schools have you attended, starting with Kindergarten and including the school you are attending today?	School	State
One school since Kindergarten	15%	17%
Two schools since Kindergarten	38%	33%
Three schools since Kindergarten	20%	25%
Four schools since Kindergarten	13%	13%
Five schools since Kindergarten	7%	6%
Six schools since Kindergarten	3%	3%
Seven or more schools since Kindergarten	4%	4%

SURVEY USE QUESTIONS

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
72. Are you interested in seeing the results of this school climate survey?	School	65%	13%	23%
	State	70%	14%	16%
73. Have you seen the results of any previous school climate surveys for this school?	School	3%	83%	14%
	State	5%	79%	17%

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Student Characteristics	School	State
Number of schools	1	422
6 th grade	24	35,817
7 th grade	24	38,631
8 th grade	23	36,441
Total number of student participants	71	110,889
Percentage male	52%	49%
Percentage who receive a free or reduced-price meal at school	68%	39%
Percentage with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)	1%	8%
Percentage with a Section 504 Plan	0%	4%
How long have you been at this school?		
This is my first year in this school.	37%	40%
This is my second year in this school.	34%	32%
This is my third year in this school.	23%	21%
I have attended this school for four or more years.	7%	8%
How many days have you been absent from school this year?		
No absences	13%	15%
1-5 absences	59%	59%
6-10 absences	17%	17%
More than 10 absences	11%	9%
Race and Ethnicity (Students could select more than one category)		
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	<1%
Asian	4%	6%
Black or African-American	35%	17%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%	<1%
White	6%	43%
Other race	6%	4%
Hispanic or Latino(a)	38%	20%
Two or more races	11%	9%
Parent Education (highest level parent)		
Did not graduate from high school	17%	8%
Graduated from high school	30%	27%
Graduated from two-year college or technical school	7%	13%
Graduated from four-year college	24%	27%
Completed post-graduate studies (such as a master's or doctoral degree)	23%	25%
Home Characteristics		
Two parents	62%	77%
One parent	35%	20%
No parents	3%	2%
Percentage speaking a language other than English at home	70%	32%

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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	3%	5%	24%	53%	15%
2. Students are proud to be at this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	1%	4%	9%	30%	43%	13%
3. Students hate going to this school (reverse scored).	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	16%	46%	23%	11%	3%	1%
4. Students finish their homework at this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	8%	17%	19%	36%	18%	2%
5. Getting good grades is very important to most students here.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	3%	8%	13%	35%	33%	8%
6. Most students want to learn as much as they can at this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	3%	9%	15%	38%	30%	5%
Average score across 6 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 6 items above	School						
	State	4.22					

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STUDENTS

	Reference Group	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
7. Students care about other students.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	1%	4%	8%	36%	44%	8%
8. Students get along well with other students.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	1%	3%	8%	35%	46%	6%
9. Students try to understand how other students think and feel.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	3%	7%	18%	42%	27%	4%
10. Students respect other students.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	3%	7%	14%	40%	33%	4%
Average score across 4 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 4 items above	School						
	State	4.20					

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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%	40%	52%
12. ...want students to do well.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	<1%	<1%	5%	38%	57%
13. ...listen to what students have to say.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	<1%	3%	16%	47%	33%
14. ...treat students with respect.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	<1%	2%	12%	46%	39%
Willingness to Seek Help							
15. Students know whom to go to for help if they have been treated badly by another student.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	<1%	2%	14%	52%	30%
16. Students feel comfortable asking for help from adults if there is a problem with a student.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	2%	6%	28%	46%	17%
17. Students report it when one student hits another.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	1%	5%	11%	27%	39%	17%
18. Students are encouraged to report bullying and aggression.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	<1%	2%	11%	41%	45%
19. Teachers/staff take action to solve the problem when students report bullying.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	1%	4%	14%	43%	37%
20. Teachers/staff know when students are being picked on or being bullied.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	3%	12%	37%	36%	12%
Average score across 10 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 10 items above	School						
	State	5.02					

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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	1%	2%	4%	19%	45%	29%
22. There is a strong sense of mutual support among the staff at this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	2%	3%	7%	21%	38%	28%
23. School staff members trust one another at this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	2%	4%	8%	24%	40%	22%
24. This school is a collegial environment for the staff members.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	2%	4%	7%	22%	41%	24%
25. The school administration responds and supports staff when they have problems with student aggression.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	5%	6%	9%	20%	34%	27%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 5 items above	School						
	State	4.70					

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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	15%	19%	17%	19%	22%	8%
27. Students at this school only receive consequences when they deserve it.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	5%	9%	12%	22%	39%	14%
28. Students know the school rules for student conduct.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	3%	4%	7%	17%	45%	24%
29. If a student does something wrong, he or she will definitely receive consequences.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	14%	18%	19%	24%	18%	6%
30. Students can get away with breaking the rules at this school pretty easily (reverse scored).	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	9%	21%	19%	25%	15%	11%
31. Students are suspended without good reason (reverse scored).	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	52%	36%	6%	2%	2%	1%
32. Students get suspended for minor things (reverse scored).	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	51%	37%	8%	3%	<1%	<1%
33. When students are accused of doing something wrong, they get a chance to explain.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	<1%	<1%	2%	12%	49%	36%
34. The adults at this school are too strict (reverse scored).	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	38%	44%	14%	3%	<1%	<1%
	Average score across 9 items, each item scored 1-6						
Average score across 9 items above	School						
	State	4.46					

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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	3%	7%	10%	24%	40%	17%
36. I feel physically safe at this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	2%	3%	5%	14%	42%	34%
37. I feel there is adequate safety and security in this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	4%	6%	8%	18%	38%	26%
38. The disciplinary practices at this school are effective.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	11%	13%	16%	26%	24%	9%
39. Disciplinary policies are clear to school staff members.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	8%	10%	14%	22%	32%	15%
40. The challenges of managing student behavior make me consider leaving this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	27%	28%	11%	15%	10%	9%

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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	6%	9%	12%	21%	25%	26%
42. Zero tolerance sends a clear message to disruptive students about inappropriate behaviors in school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	5%	7%	9%	21%	29%	28%
43. Suspension makes students less likely to misbehave in the future.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	11%	20%	22%	27%	13%	7%
44. Out-of-school suspension is unnecessary if we provide a positive school climate and challenging instruction.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	18%	25%	23%	19%	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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	5%	23%	22%	33%	13%	3%
46. Students in this school are teased or put down because of their race or ethnicity.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	13%	36%	24%	19%	7%	2%
47. There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	10%	31%	24%	22%	9%	3%
48. Bullying is a problem at this school.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	6%	26%	28%	27%	10%	3%
49. Students here get teased or put down about their sexual orientation.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	13%	36%	24%	18%	7%	3%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 1-6							
Average score across 5 items above	School						
	State	3.01					

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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	35%	35%	11%	11%	5%	2%
51. Some teachers or other adults at this school say things that make students feel badly.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	25%	34%	16%	17%	6%	2%
52. Some teachers or other adults at this school pick on certain students.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	36%	35%	12%	11%	4%	2%

STUDENT AGGRESSION TOWARD ADULTS

	Reference Group	No	One Time	More than Once	Many Times
53. A student stole or damaged my personal property.	School	%	%	%	%
	State	73%	13%	12%	3%
54. A student threatened to harm me.	School	%	%	%	%
	State	86%	8%	4%	<1%
55. A student physically attacked, pushed, or hit me.	School	%	%	%	%
	State	91%	5%	2%	<1%
56. A student said rude or insulting things to me.	School	%	%	%	%
	State	38%	16%	29%	18%
57. A student threatened me with a weapon.	School	%	%	%	%
	State	99%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Average score across 5 items, each item scored 0-3					
Average score across 5 items above	School				
	State	0.41			

ADULT REACTIONS TO STUDENT AGGRESSION

	Reference Group	Not True	A Little True	Somewhat True	Definitely True
58. They bothered me a lot.	School	%	%	%	%
	State	30%	28%	21%	21%
59. I felt burned out about my job.	School	%	%	%	%
	State	35%	23%	19%	22%
60. It made me think about whether to continue my work in this school.	School	%	%	%	%
	State	47%	18%	15%	20%

GANG ACTIVITY

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
61. Are there gangs at your school this year?	School	%	%	%
	State	9%	42%	48%
62. Have gangs caused problems at your school this year (e.g., fights, sale of drugs)?	School	%	%	%
	State	5%	53%	42%

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?	School	%	%	%
	State	61%	2%	37%

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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	4%	3%	4%	5%	23%	33%	29%

[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.	School	%	%	%	%	%	%
	State	2%	3%	5%	19%	34%	38%

	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>	School	%	%	%	%
	State	12%	31%	33%	24%

SURVEY USE QUESTIONS

	Reference Group	Yes	No	Don't Know
67. Are you interested in seeing the results of this school climate survey?	School	%	%	%
	State	80%	13%	7%
68. Have you seen the results of any previous school climate surveys for this school?	School	%	%	%
	State	33%	55%	11%
69. Have previous school climate results been used for school planning or improvement in any way?	School	%	%	%
	State	32%	7%	61%

Demographic Information for Teacher/Staff Participants

	School	State
Number of schools	1	422
Number of teacher participants*		11,122
Number of staff participants*		3,256
Percentage female	%	78%
How many years have you worked at this school?*	School	State
1-5 years	%	53%
6-10 years	%	18%
More than 10 years	%	29%

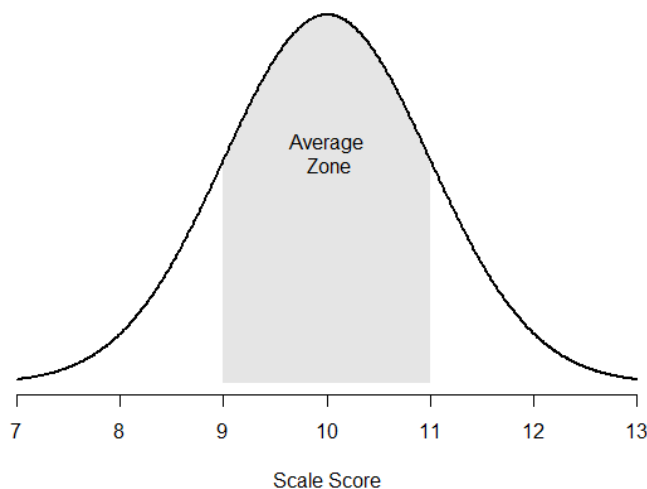
*Teacher/staff could decline to answer.

Technical Notes

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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