

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Accountability Coordinators
District PowerSchool Administrators

FROM: Dan Ralyea
Chief Information Officer

DATE: February 3, 2026

RE: School Climate Surveys

The Student and Teacher Climate Surveys are a rated metric in the school accountability system. These surveys will be issued and collected through the PowerSchool Ecollect system just as they have in prior years.

Participation in these two surveys impacts rating values schools will receive on School Report Cards for the current school year. Student and Teacher Climate Surveys are controlled for continuous enrollment or employment, respectively. The target for participation is 80% of the identified populations completing surveys. The eligibility criteria are listed in the most recently updated version of the [Education Oversight Committee's Accountability Manual](#).

The window for survey distribution for the 2025-2026 school year is **February 23, 2026 through April 17, 2026**. All students in grades 3 through 12 must be offered the opportunity to participate in the survey.

The Student Climate Survey may be read to struggling readers or to whole groups. Please view the Student Survey Administration Script (attached) and utilize as needed. This document contains recommended definitions for some terms used in the survey that students may need defined.

SCDE will provide informational webinar “office hour”-style support sessions in collaboration with PowerSchool for this school year’s survey administration. These will be held on Fridays from 10:30-11:00 a.m. EST until the survey window closes. The link to join

all sessions is below:

[Weekly Webinar - Ecollect and School Climate Surveys | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Please note that all sessions will be recorded and posted to the SCDE website ([survey page](#)) for any users unable to attend live or for future reference as needed, although live participation and engagement are encouraged.

Instructions for accessing Ecollect forms are attached.

If questions arise, please see the contact list below:

Questions about Ecollect: powerschool@ed.sc.gov

Questions about accountability: mlavery@eoc.sc.gov

Questions about survey administration: wstephens@ed.sc.gov or cdjohnson@ed.sc.gov

Accessing Ecollect Forms for South Carolina's 2026 SCDE School Climate Surveys

Ecollect Forms for SCDE School Climate Surveys are accessible to teachers and eligible staff members through Teacher Portal, to students through Student Portal, and to parents and guardians through Parent Portal. Parents and Students can also access forms through the PowerSchool Mobile App. Teachers (or eligible staff) and students will submit their survey responses through the SCDE School Climate Survey Ecollect forms. Parents and guardians will not submit responses through the Parent and Guardian School Climate Survey Ecollect form, but will find a link within that form that they will click on to take them to the Parent and Guardian survey in a separate platform.

The instructions below detail how respondents can access their respective 2026 SCDE School Climate Survey Ecollect forms through the various portals and mobile app.

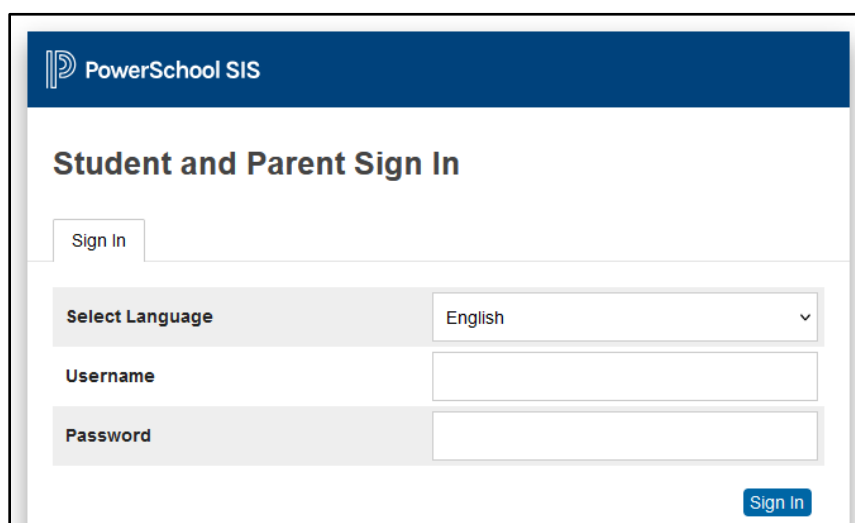
Parent Portal

Accessing the 2026 Parent and Guardian School Climate Survey form through the browser:

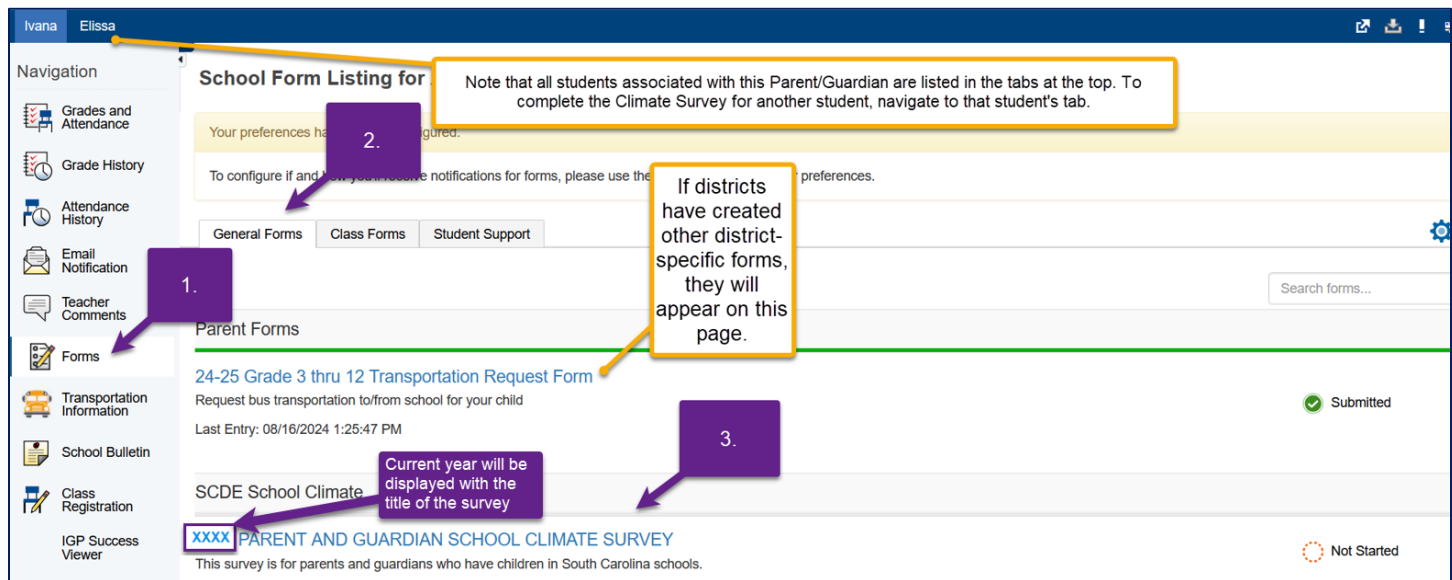
Important: The Parent and Guardian survey is linked to from within the Ecollect form as described below. The link will take you to the survey which is completed and submitted in a different platform; the Parent and Guardian School Climate Survey cannot be submitted from with the Ecollect form itself. The Student and Teacher surveys, in contrast, are completed and submitted within the Ecollect form itself.

1. Navigate to the Parent Portal login page.
2. Enter your username and password to log in.

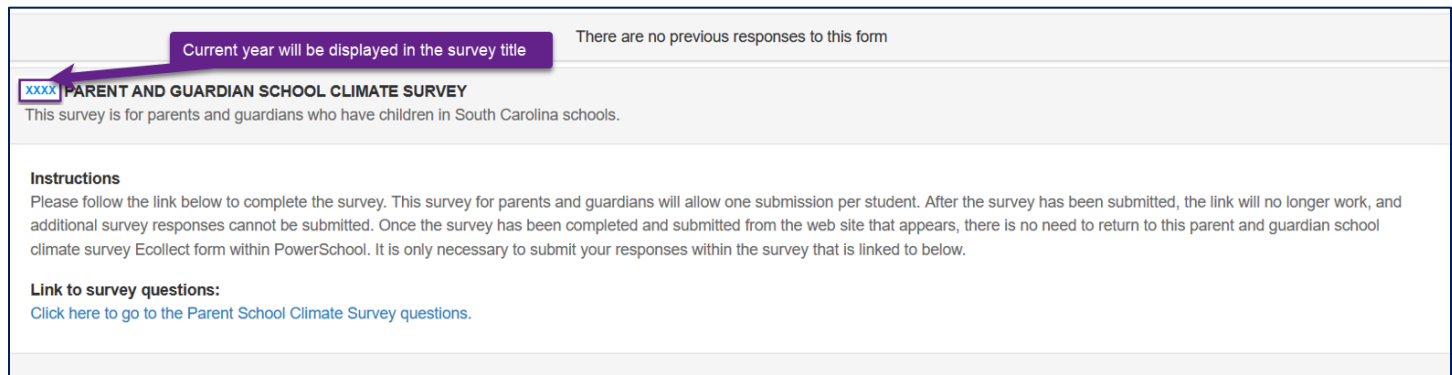
Note: Contact your district administrator if you do not have a Parent Portal account.

The screenshot shows the PowerSchool SIS login interface. At the top is a dark blue header with the PowerSchool SIS logo. Below the header is a white box titled "Student and Parent Sign In". Inside this box, there is a "Sign In" button. Below the button is a "Select Language" dropdown menu currently set to "English". Underneath the language menu are two input fields: "Username" and "Password". At the bottom right of the white box is a blue "Sign In" button.

3. Select the Forms link from the left-hand Navigation bar.
4. The 2026 SCDE School Climate Survey form will appear on the 'General Forms' tab.
5. Click on the form titled '**2026 PARENT AND GUARDIAN SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY**' to open the form.



6. Click on the link within the form to access, complete, and submit the survey.



Accessing the 2026 Parent and Guardian School Climate Survey form through the PowerSchool Mobile App:

****Please make sure you are on the most recent version of the app prior to logging in.**

Important: The Parent and Guardian survey is linked to from within the Ecollect form as described below. The link will take you to the survey which is completed and submitted in a different platform; the Parent and Guardian School Climate Survey cannot be submitted from with the Ecollect form itself. The Student and Teacher surveys, in contrast, are completed and submitted within the Ecollect form itself.

1. Locate your district code. This can be found in the bottom left corner of the Parent Portal.
- Note: contact your district PowerSchool administrator if you cannot locate your district code.
2. Navigate to the PowerSchool App on your mobile device.
 3. Enter district code and Submit.
 4. Enter your username and password to log in.
 5. On the dashboard, select More.

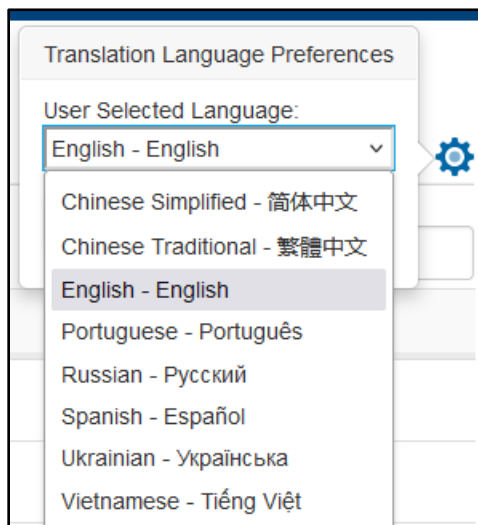
Note: you can click Edit and drag the Forms icon to the navigation bar to organize tabs.

6. Click Forms to access forms that have been shared to your account.
7. The 2026 SCDE School Climate Survey will appear in the General Forms tab.
8. Click on the 2026 Parent and Guardian School Climate Survey to open the form.
9. Complete and submit the survey.

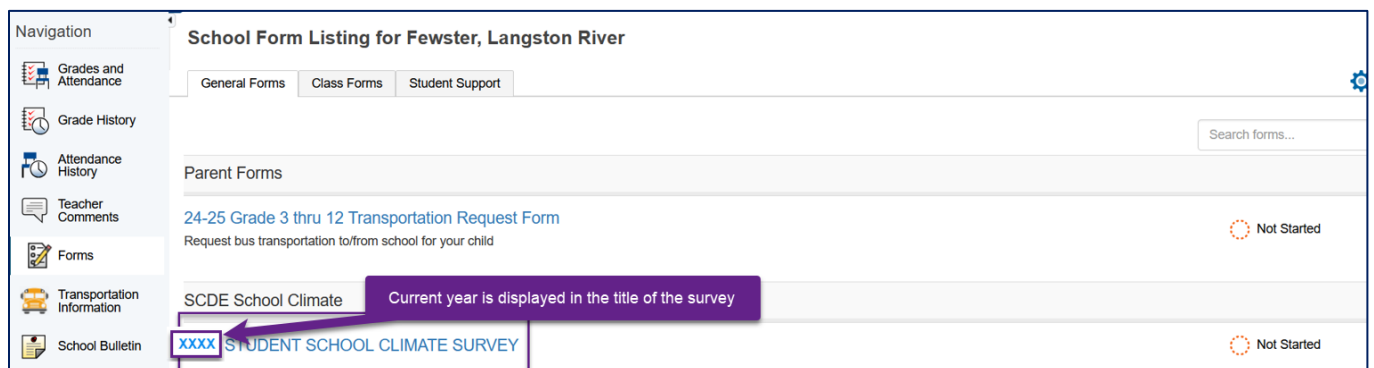
Student Portal

Accessing the 2026 Student School Climate Survey form through the browser:

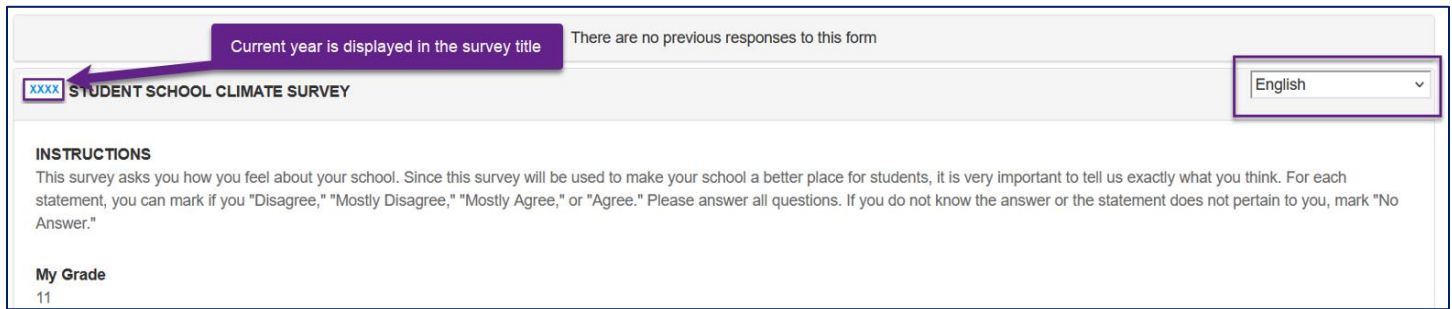
1. Navigate to the Student Portal login page.
2. Enter your Username and Password to log in to your Student Portal account.
Note: Contact your district administrator if you do not have a Student Portal account.
3. Select the 'Forms' link from the left-hand Navigation bar.
4. The 2026 SCDE School Climate Survey will appear on the 'General Forms' tab.
5. If needed or desired, click on the 'Gear Icon'  in the top right corner to select 'Translation Language Preferences' to enable translated forms and their titles to appear in the selected language.



6. Click 'Save'.
7. Click on the form titled '**2026 STUDENT SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY**' to open the form. Translated form titles will appear in selected language.



8. To change languages once the survey has begun, click the languages box in the top right corner and select the option needed.



9. Complete the necessary information and click 'Submit.' Upon submission, a pop-up will appear confirming successful submission and survey responses will be unable to edit.

Note: Once the survey has been submitted, notice that the form will be cleared, and the Submit button is replaced with a message stating that "This form can only be submitted once."

Accessing the 2026 Student School Climate Survey form through the PowerSchool Mobile App:

****Please make sure you are on the most recent version of the app prior to logging in.**

1. Locate your district code.
2. Navigate to the PowerSchool App on your mobile device.
3. Enter district code and Submit.
4. Enter your username and password to log in.
5. From the Dashboard select More.

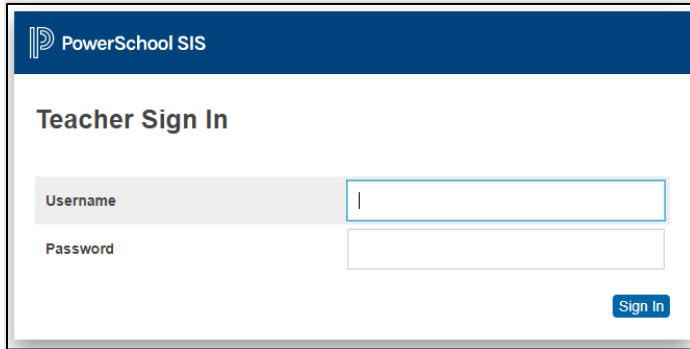
Note: You can also click Edit then drag the Forms icon to the navigation bar to organize tabs.

6. Click on Forms to access forms that have been shared to your account.
7. The 2026 SCDE School Climate Survey form will appear on the General Forms tab.
8. Click on the 'Gear Icon'  in the top right corner to select Translation Language Preferences if desired. Translated forms will appear in Selected Language.
9. Click Save.
10. Click on the form titled 2026 Student School Climate Survey to open the form. Translated form titles will appear in Selected Language.
11. Click on the language dropdown at the top of the screen to toggle the forms language.
12. Complete and submit.

Teacher Portal

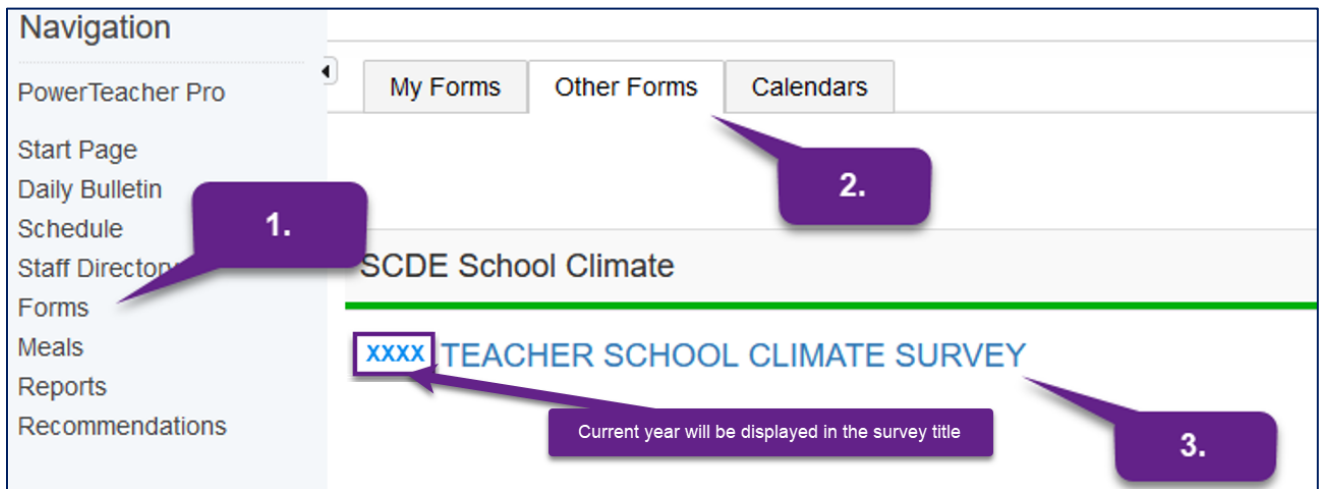
Accessing the 2026 Teacher School Climate Survey form through the browser:

1. Teachers and eligible staff will navigate to the Teacher Portal login page (Do NOT go through Teacher Portal Pro). Even staff who do not have a job description or position title of “teacher” must have a Teacher Portal account to access and submit the 2026 Teacher School Climate Survey form.
2. Enter your username and password to log in to your Teacher Portal account.
Note: Contact your district administrator if you do not have a Teacher Portal account.



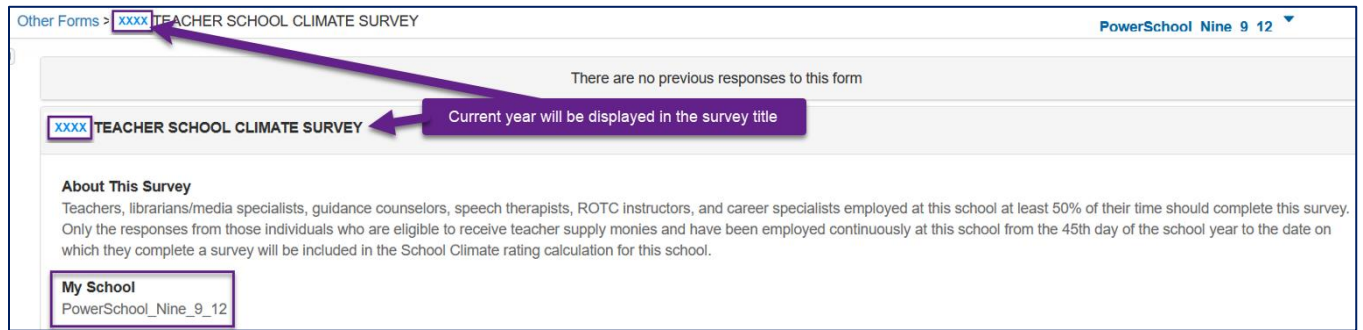
The image shows the 'Teacher Sign In' page of the PowerSchool SIS. It features a blue header with the PowerSchool SIS logo. Below the header, the title 'Teacher Sign In' is displayed. There are two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. A 'Sign In' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

3. Select 'Forms' from the left Navigation bar. Links may look different depending on your Student Information System.
4. Select 'Other Forms' tab.
5. The 2026 Teacher School Climate Survey form will appear on the 'Other Forms' tab.
IMPORTANT: Teachers who teach at multiple schools will need to toggle the school prior to seeing the next state survey; see step 10.
6. Click on the form titled '**2026 TEACHER SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY**' to open the form.



The image shows the navigation bar and the survey form. The navigation bar on the left includes links for 'PowerTeacher Pro', 'Start Page', 'Daily Bulletin', 'Schedule', 'Staff Directory', 'Forms', 'Meals', 'Reports', and 'Recommendations'. The 'Forms' link is highlighted with a purple callout bubble labeled '1.'. The main content area shows the 'Other Forms' tab selected, with a purple callout bubble labeled '2.' pointing to it. Below the tab, the survey title 'SCDE School Climate' is displayed, followed by a green bar and the text 'xxxxx TEACHER SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY'. A purple callout bubble labeled '3.' points to the 'xxxxx' placeholder, with a note stating 'Current year will be displayed in the survey title'.

7. Notice the school listed under 'My School' at the top of the survey. This represents the school for which the survey will be submitted.



Other Forms > XXXX TEACHER SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

PowerSchool Nine 9 12

There are no previous responses to this form

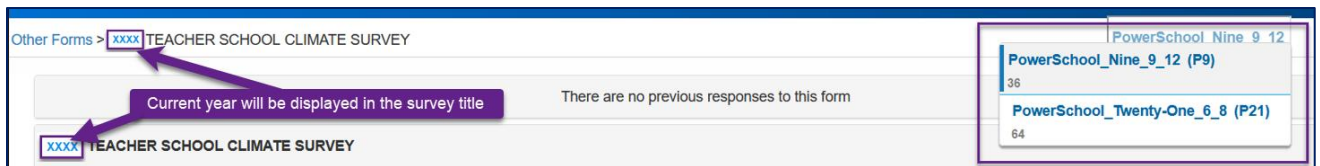
XXXX TEACHER SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

Current year will be displayed in the survey title

About This Survey
Teachers, librarians/media specialists, guidance counselors, speech therapists, ROTC instructors, and career specialists employed at this school at least 50% of their time should complete this survey. Only the responses from those individuals who are eligible to receive teacher supply monies and have been employed continuously at this school from the 45th day of the school year to the date on which they complete a survey will be included in the School Climate rating calculation for this school.

My School
PowerSchool_Nine_9_12

8. Complete the necessary information and click 'Submit.'
9. The 2026 Teacher School Climate Survey can only be submitted once per school by a teacher; a teacher who serves multiple schools may submit only once for each school to which the teacher is associated.
10. Teachers who teach at multiple schools (or staff eligible to complete the Teacher survey who work at multiple schools) need to click on the school that appears in the upper right corner of the Teacher Portal to select another school for which they wish to submit a survey. Select the name of the school for which you would like to submit a survey.



Other Forms > XXXX TEACHER SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

PowerSchool Nine 9 12

There are no previous responses to this form

Current year will be displayed in the survey title

XXXX TEACHER SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

PowerSchool_Nine_9_12 (P9)
36
PowerSchool_Twenty-One_6_8 (P21)
64

11. Repeat the steps above to submit the survey for additional schools as needed.

Note: Once the survey has been submitted, notice that the form will be cleared, and the Submit button is replaced with a message stating that "This form can only be submitted once."

Student Survey Administration Script

This document provides a script for reading all Student School Climate Survey questions to students. The use of this script is recommended in elementary settings and in other grade levels as needed.

Students are not required to follow along with an oral administration of the survey, but the guidance given here contains recommended definitions for survey-specific terms.

When reading the script, follow typical oral administration guidelines: read the survey exactly as it is written, be aware of grammatical makeup and structure in survey items, and allow breaks in speech to convey commas and other punctuation, as well as paragraph breaks. Follow students' cues as to how quickly or slowly to read items, and pause between statements to allow students to reflect on survey items. Pause if students request. Questions or instructions may be repeated as needed.

For students with IEPs, if further accommodations are needed, reference a student's IEP and apply the accommodations they have for other computer-based assessments.

Introduction to Survey:

Today you are being asked what you think about our school. There are no right or wrong answers. For each item, think about the whole year and not just something that happened once or twice. Please provide honest and true answers so that we can make our school better. Do not talk to other students about the questions.

Most of the items have five answer options where you will decide whether you Disagree, Mostly Disagree, Mostly Agree, or Agree with each sentence. Another choice is No Answer. Do your best to think about it and decide.

Choose "Disagree" if the statement is not at all true and choose "Mostly Disagree" if the statement is not usually true. Choose "Mostly Agree" if the statement is usually true and "Agree" if the statement is almost always or always true. Choose "No Answer" if the statement is asking about something that doesn't have anything to do with your time at school. If you don't know about that sentence, you can pick No Answer.

There is one sentence in Section 3 where you can pick more than one option. If none of those options apply to you, you can skip that question. You need to answer all other questions on the survey.

There are four sections of this survey. Before each section, we'll review the answer options and any words in the statements that you may not know.

Section 1: Learning Environment

Here are some of the words you will come across in this section: mathematics, English language arts, assignments, praise, learning materials, selection of reading materials and online resources, technology, satisfied, and learning environment.

Mathematics just means math. English language arts includes reading, writing, and talking about reading and writing. Assignments are things we work on in class together, or work you do that is based on what you're learning in class. Praise is when someone lets you know you've done a good job or worked hard. Learning materials are things we use to help us learn.

One question talks about the selection of reading materials and online resources given by the school. This means books in a classroom library, the school library, activities or websites on your school computer that help you learn or work on school work. Learning environment means the places where you learn. Technology includes devices like computers or tablets.

Satisfied means that you are happy with something. Learning environment means the places where you learn.

I will read each question one time and then wait for a little bit to give you time to click an answer. If you need a reminder for what one of these words means when we get to it, raise your hand and I can tell you. Here are the questions:

My classes are challenging (not too easy; they make me think).

My teachers want me to understand what I am learning, not just remember facts.

My teachers expect students to learn.

My teachers expect students to behave.

My teachers help me learn.

My teachers help students when they do not understand something.

My teachers do a good job teaching me mathematics.

My teachers do a good job teaching me English language arts.

My teachers give tests on what I learn in class.

My teachers give assignments that help me learn better.

My classes are interesting and fun.

Students at my school believe they can do good work.

My teachers praise students when they do good work.

Student work is displayed by my school.

The learning materials I use for school help me to learn.

My school provides a good selection of reading materials and online resources.

I use technology for school to help me learn.

I am satisfied with the learning environment of my school.

Section 2: Social and Physical Environment

Here are some of the words you will come across in this section: grounds, enforced, school hours, backgrounds, and social and physical environment.

The word grounds is talking about the school and its building, both inside and outside. Enforced means people following through on what they say they will do. School hours means the times when school and teaching are happening. Backgrounds are the kinds of homes and families different people come from. The school's social and physical environment is the way people treat each other and the way the school looks and makes you feel.

I will read each question one time and then wait for a little bit to give you time to click an answer. If you need a reminder for what one of these words means when we get to it, raise your hand and I can tell you. Here are the questions:

The grounds around my school are kept clean.

The hallways at my school are kept clean.

The bathrooms at my school are kept clean.

Broken things at my school get fixed.

There is enough room for students to learn at my school.

Students behave well in class.

Students behave well in the hallways, in the lunchroom, and on school grounds.

Students know the rules and what happens when students break the rules.

The rules about how students should behave are fair.

The rules for behavior are enforced by my school.

I feel safe at my school before and after school hours.

I feel safe at my school during the school day.

I feel safe going to or coming from my school.

Students from different backgrounds get along well at my school.

Teachers and students get along well with each other at my school.

Teachers work together to help students at my school.

I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my school.

Section 3: Bullying

This section is about bullying. Sometimes different people understand what bullying means in different ways. As you answer these questions, think about bullying as: “a way of harming others, both physically and mentally. Bullies intimidate, or frighten, other people. They also make people feel bad about themselves. Bullying is also repeated behavior and not a one-time event”

This section has one question with options that are different from the rest of the questions. Please be careful on this question and know that you do not have to answer this one. If you have not been bullied, skip the question. If you have, choose the place or places you were bullied.

I will read each question one time and then wait for a little bit to give you time to click an answer. If you need a reminder for what one of these words means when we get to it, raise your hand and I can tell you. Here are the questions:

I have seen or know of another student being bullied at my school.

I have been bullied by someone from school.

I have been bullied (check all that apply):

In a physical classroom / In an online learning environment / In some other location at school / At a school event / On the bus Before or after school / Online or texting during school / Online or texting before or after school

I have bullied another student at my school.

Adults at my school prevent bullying from happening.

I can always go to adults at my school if I am being bullied.

An adult at my school has talked to me about bullying.

Section 4: Home and School Relations

Some phrases you'll hear in this section are Parents volunteer, participate, and help support the school community, welcoming, and satisfied with home and school relations.

Parents volunteer, participate, and help support the school community means that there are adults who don't work at our school who help teachers and students. Welcoming means that parents feel that they are able to come to your school and participate as a volunteer. Satisfied with home and school relations means you like how people at your school treat and talk to the people at your house and how the people at your house treat and talk to the people at your school.

If you don't live with a parent, think instead about the adult who takes care of you.

I will read each question one time and then wait for a little bit to give you time to click an answer. If you need a reminder for what one of these words means when we get to it, raise your hand and I can tell you. Here are the questions:

My parent knows what I am expected to learn in school.

My parent knows how well I am doing in school.

My school informs parents about school programs and activities.

Parents at my school know their children's assignments.

My parent helps me with my assignments when I need it.

My school is welcoming to parents.

Parents volunteer, participate, and help support the school community.

I am satisfied with home and school relations.