

New York State School Climate Survey Pilot

FAQ's

2018-19 School Year

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| 1. | <p>Q: Does New York's Every Students Succeed Act (ESSA) require that schools administer a school climate survey?</p> <p>A: New York's approved ESSA Plan¹ talks extensively about the Department's efforts to provide supports to schools on measuring and improving school climate. The department is continuing our pilot of the US Department of Education school climate surveys in the 2018-19 school year (with more than 100 districts and charter schools participating in the pilot) and anticipate that schools statewide will administer school climate surveys in the 2019-20 school year.</p> <p>All schools that have been identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) must conduct an annual survey of Parents, Staff and Students to inform the annual School Comprehensive Plan (SCEP). The US Department of Education school climate surveys may be used to fulfil this requirement.</p> <p>As detailed in our ESSA plan, the department continues to work to provide supports to improve school climate, including resources in social and emotional learning, health and mental health, restorative practices and reducing exclusionary discipline, trauma-sensitive schools.</p> <p>In addition, New York's ESSA plan indicates that the results of school climate surveys may be considered as a <u>possible</u> measure for <u>future</u> accountability or reporting (page 68).</p> |
| 2. | <p>Q: My school used the US Department of Education climate survey platform for administering the school climate surveys last school year, are there other applications that may be used for administering the survey?</p> <p>A: There are vendors that have added the US Department of Education school climate surveys and scale scoring process to their applications. You can obtain more information about this from your Regional Information Center contact.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Q: How long does it take to administer the school climate surveys?</p> <p>A: Feedback from districts that have administered the US Department of Education school climate surveys is that it takes approximately 20 minutes to complete the survey.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Q: What is the "target" participation rate we should be striving for, is there a state standard for participation rate?</p> <p>A: There is no state standard or target participation rate for the survey, however every school should strive to engage every student, parent, and staff person and encourage them to share their thoughts and perceptions. Encourage participation by communicating with students, staff, and parents about the importance of a positive school climate your commitment to improvement!</p> |

¹ <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/essa/nys-essa-plan.pdf>

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| 5. | <p>Q: When should we administer the surveys and how long should the survey window remain open?</p> <p>A: It is recommended that the surveys be administered in spring. Most school districts allow a window of 3 or 4 weeks, however you set your own survey “window.” The US Department of Education survey platform requires you to set a survey window at when you configure the application. If you are using an alternate method to administer the survey, this may work a little differently.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Q: Is parental consent required for students to complete the climate survey?</p> <p>A: There is no state requirement to obtain parental consent for students to participate, however your local policy may require it. Best practice is that your school or district should communicate with parents about the initiative and the surveys prior to administering the survey to students. You should have a process to allow parents to excuse their child(ren) from participating.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Q. Can parents “opt-out” their child from survey participation?</p> <p>A. Yes, you should have a process for parents to excuse their child(ren) from participating.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Q: What is the Community Engagement Team? Is it composed of the school community, or does this include organizations outside the school community?</p> <p>A: Your Community Engagement Team should include staff, parents, and students. Remember to include non-instructional staff who interact with students and parents (i.e. bus drivers, food service staff, etc.) on your team! If you choose to include community partners in your engagement team, you may help your school or district incorporate additional supports from external sources in your community.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Q: What data are we required to report to the NYSED if we participate in the pilot?</p> <p>A: There is no data collection process in place at this time, however, we would like schools to share aggregate scale score data by school climate domain and subdomain, and respondent group (students, staff, etc.) and subgroup (grade, gender, etc.) with the department. We will use the data to help us develop a process for calculating a school climate index.</p> |