

Student Survey – Middle School

The middle school student survey asks questions about students' overall school experience and takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Administrators receive comprehensive reports, along with indexed qualitative comments.

So far this school year, how have you attended classes? (*In-person at school; Virtually; Both in-person at school and virtually*)

Strengths & Areas for Improvement

- **What do you like most about your school?** (*My school inspires me to do my best; I have supportive teachers who care about me and help me; Students and staff treat each other with respect and fairness; My classes challenge me to think critically; My school is getting me ready for high school; Something else not listed; Nothing – I can't think of anything I like about my school*)
- **What do you dislike most about your school?** (*My school does not do enough to inspire me to be a good student; I don't have enough supportive teachers who care about me and help me; Students and staff don't treat each other with enough respect and fairness; My classes don't do enough to challenge me to think critically; My school is not getting me ready for high school; Something else not listed; Nothing – I can't think of anything I dislike about my school*)
- **What about learning at home do you like? Are there things you hope will stay the same next school year?** (*Only asked of students who attend school virtually.*)
- **What about learning at home do you find challenging? How can your school help?** (*Only asked of students who attend school virtually.*)

Students provide comments responding in more detail to their answers to the two questions in this section. These comments are provided in an indexed table, categorized into the themes listed above. Students are shown the following language in the survey to clarify that if a student is in crisis, leaving a comment in the survey is not the place to get help:

Sometimes taking a survey can bring up feelings or topics that are hard to talk about. If you need to talk to someone, here are some places you can get help right now:

- National suicide prevention hotline: Call **1-800-273-8255**
- Crisis text line: Text **741741**
- Sexual abuse hotline: Call **1-900-656-4673**
- Domestic violence hotline: Call **1-800-799-7233**

If you'd like to talk to someone at your school, please reach out to your teacher, guidance counselor, or principal.

Engagement – Describes the degree to which students perceive themselves as engaged with their school and their education.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor Disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

- I enjoy school most of the time.
- I take pride in my schoolwork.
- What I learn in class helps me outside of school.

Related questions: (1: *Not at all well*; 2 = *Not very well*; 3 = *Somewhat well*; 4 = *Moderately well*; 5 = *Very well*)

- I am able to motivate myself to do schoolwork.
- I am able to focus on my schoolwork.
- I am able to create goals for my own learning (e.g. which skills to improve).

Academic Challenge – Describes the degree to which students feel they are challenged by their coursework and teachers.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor Disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

- I feel like I will be ready for high school classes when I finish middle school.
- *My teachers explain things in a way that I understand.
- In most of my classes, we learn a lot almost every day.
- *The work that I do for my classes makes me really think.
- Most of my teachers don't let people give up when the work gets hard.
- *My teachers give me assignments that really help me learn.
- My school is helping me learn the material I will need for high school.
- In most of my classes, we learn to correct our mistakes.
- Most of my teachers want me to explain my answers – why I think what I think.
- Most of my teachers want us to use our thinking skills, not just memorize things.
- *In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my classes.

** Students are asked these four academic challenge questions in the core survey in relation to their overall school experience. To dig deeper, the survey can be customized to ask variations of these same four questions about the following core subjects: English, math, science, and/or social studies. The optional subject specific add-on questions are as follows:*

Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: English/Language Arts

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor Disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

- The work that I do for my English/Language Arts classes makes me really think.
- My English/Language Arts teacher gives me assignments that really help me learn.
- In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my English/Language Arts class.
- My English/Language Arts teacher explains things in a way that I understand.

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Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: Math

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my math class makes me really think.
- My math teacher gives me assignments that really help me learn.
- In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my math class.
- My math teacher explains things in a way that I understand.

Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: Science

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my science class makes me really think.
- My science teacher gives me assignments that really help me learn.
- In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my science class.
- My science teacher explains things in a way that I understand.

Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: Social Studies

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my social studies class makes me really think.
- My social studies teacher gives me assignments that really help me learn.
- In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my social studies class.
- My social studies teacher explains things in a way that I understand.

Do you want to go to college one day? (Yes, No, I'm not sure)

Culture – Describes the degree to which students believe that their school fosters a culture of respect and fairness.

Are you part of clubs, teams, or other groups (sports, music, art, etc.)? (Yes, No)

Outside of school, are you part of clubs, sports, teams, church/religious activities, or other groups? (Yes, No)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Discipline in this school is fair.
- I think my classmates want to do well in school.

Think about the students and adults from your school that you interact with (in class, over email, etc.)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Adults from my school treat students with respect.
- Students from my school treat adults with respect.

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Adults from my school respect people from different: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Religions and faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Learning abilities.
- Gender identities. (e.g. men, women, people who identify in a different way)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races/ethnicities.
- Countries of origin.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I feel safe during school

Health & Well-being – Describes the degree to which students experience supports and barriers to their health and well-being.

Think about your life lately: (1 = Very Rarely; 2 = Somewhat rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Moderately often; 5 = Very often)

- I get enough sleep.
- I eat regular meals.
- I eat healthy foods.
- I get enough exercise.
- I get time outside.
- I connect with friends.
- I spend time on things you like to do.
- I feel energized.

Do any of the following make it hard for you to do your best in school? (Limited or no internet access; I don't feel safe at home; I don't feel safe at school; Limited or no access to a computer or device; Distractions at home; Family responsibilities; Feeling depressed, stressed, or anxious; My health or the health of my family members; Extracurricular commitments; Changing from elementary to middle school; There is not an adult who can help me with my schoolwork; Getting picked on or bullied; My personal relationships; Other (please specify))

Belonging & Peer Collaboration – Describes the degree to which students feel welcome at their school and have collaborative relationships with their classmates.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I can usually be myself around other students.
- Most students are friendly to me.
- I really feel like a part of my school's community.

How often do you work with other students for your classes... (1 = Very rarely; 2 = Somewhat Rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Somewhat often; 5 = Very often)

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- ...because your teachers ask or tell you to?
- ...even when your teacher doesn't ask or tell you to?

Relationships – Describes the degree to which students feel they receive support and personal attention from their teachers.

How many of your teachers... (1 = None; 2 = A few; 3 = Some; 4 = Many; 5 = All)

- ...are willing to give extra help on schoolwork if you need it?
- ...try to understand what your life is like outside of school?
- ...are not just satisfied if you pass, they care if you're really learning?
- ...believe that you can get a good grade if you try?
- ...try to be fair?
- ...connect what you're learning in class with your life outside of school?

Is there an adult from school who would be willing to help you with a personal problem? (Yes, No, I don't know)

Related questions: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- When I'm feeling upset, stressed, or having problems, there is an adult from school who I can talk to about it.

Bullying Questions – Questions about bullying are included as part of *Belonging & Peer Collaboration* in YouthTruth reports.

In the past year, have other students bullied or harassed you? Were you bullied... (please check all that apply) (Physically; Verbally; Socially; Through cyberbullying; I'm not sure; I have not been bullied or harassed during this school year)

- Students bully each other for a lot of reasons – and being bullied is not your fault. To help your school understand the problem, why do you think it happened? (please check all that apply) (Your sex or gender; Your race or skin color; Where your family is from; How you look; Your religion; Because people think you're gay (whether you are or not); How much money your family has; A disability that you have; Other reason(s) (please specify); I prefer not to say)

Demographics

- What grade are you in? (5th; 6th; 7th; 8th; Other)
- How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; I identify in another way; Prefer not to say)
- What is your race/ethnicity? (White; Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; Hispanic, Latinx, Spanish origin; Other; Prefer not to say)
- In your current classes, what have most of your grades been? (Mostly As; Mostly Bs; Mostly Cs; Mostly Ds or below; Don't know; Prefer not to say)
- Remember, other students will not know how you answer, and your answer will be combined with those of other students before being shared with adults at your school. Do you receive special education services or have a 504 or IEP (individualized education plan)? This means that you receive extra support with your learning or school assignments. (For example, you might: a)

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- have a special teacher that works with just you or a small group of students, b) get special changes to your work in class that not all students get.) (Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)
- An English language learner (ELL) is a student whose first language is not English but who is learning English. English Language Learners usually participate in English language classes at school, like ESL/ESOL classes, or other language programs or services to learn English. Are you an English Language Learner? (Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)
 - At school, are you able to receive lunch for free or at a lower price? (Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)
 - With which of the following do you most identify?* (Gay or lesbian; Straight; Bisexual*; I identify another way; I am not sure; Prefer not to say) *A person who is attracted to people of the same or other genders.
 - Think about your life lately. How much has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you? (1 = Not at all; 2 = A little bit; 3 = Somewhat; 4 = Moderately; 5 = Significantly)
 - So far this school year, how have you attended classes? (In-person at school; Virtually; Both in-person at school and virtually)
 - At the beginning of the survey you said that you are attending class both at home and at school. (Only asked of students who answered "Both in-person at school and virtually" to the "how have you attended classes" question.)
 - Right now, how are you taking this survey? (At school; Virtually outside of school; Other)

**Optional, many districts choose to include this question for high school students/some districts choose to include this question for middle school students.*

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— YOUTH TRUTH SURVEY —

“OVERALL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE” STUDENT SURVEY
Using random student login codes, or no login codes
Passive “Opt Out” Parental Notification Letter (Spanish)

Estimado padre o tutor,

Le escribimos para hacerle saber que le estamos pidiendo a su hijo/ que participe en la Encuesta de Estudiantes YouthTruth en las próximas semanas. La Encuesta de Estudiantes YouthTruth es una encuesta nacionalmente reconocida utilizada en cientos de escuelas y distritos de todo el país, examinando cientos de miles de estudiantes. La encuesta le pregunta a los estudiantes acerca de sus experiencias en la escuela y con sus maestros, incluyendo la forma en que están comprometidos en la escuela, el rigor de sus cursos, y su preparación para el futuro. Nuestra escuela, otras escuelas, y los investigadores podrán utilizar dicha información para el desarrollo de planes para ayudar a las escuelas y a los maestros a mejorar. Para obtener información acerca de esta encuesta, por favor visite <http://youthtruthsurvey.org>, o contacte a la escuela. Aunque queremos saber de todos los estudiantes, la participación en esta encuesta es voluntaria.

Las calificaciones de su hijo/a no serán identificados en los informes porque los resultados son compartidos a nivel de grupo. Información de identificación personal no será revelada a otros grupos terceros. Tenga en cuenta que bajo la ley federal, usted tiene el derecho de revisar una copia de las preguntas de su hijo/a. Si desea hacerlo, puede ver una copia de la encuesta en la escuela.

Exclusión Voluntaria/ Renuncia a Participar

Por favor, complete este formulario SOLO si desea que su hijo/a sea excluido de la encuesta.

Yo no doy mi permiso para que mi hijo/a participe en esta encuesta.

Firma de Padre/Tutor: _____ Date: _____

Nombre completo del estudiante: _____

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STUDENT SURVEY

"OVERALL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE" STUDENT SURVEY
Using random student login codes, or no login codes
Passive "Opt Out" Parental Notification Letter (English)

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are writing to let you know that we are asking your child to participate in the YouthTruth Student Survey in the coming weeks. The YouthTruth Student Survey is a nationally recognized survey used in hundreds of schools and districts across the country, surveying hundreds of thousands of students. The survey asks students about their experiences in the school and with their teachers, including how engaged they are at school, the rigor of their coursework, and their preparedness for the future. Our school, other schools, and researchers may use such information for developing plans to help schools and teachers improve. For information about this survey, please visit <http://youthtruthsurvey.org>, or speak to a school administrator.

Although we want to hear from all students, participation in this survey is voluntary.

Your child's ratings will not be identified in any reports because results are shared at the group level. Personally identifiable information will not be released to any third party.

Please be aware that under federal law, you have the right to review a copy of the questions asked of your child. If you would like to do so, you can view a copy of the survey at school.

Opt-Out

Please complete this form only if you would like your child to be excluded from the survey.

I do not give my permission for my child to participate in this survey.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Child's Full Name: _____

