

Dear Parent, Guardian, or other Legally Responsible Adult:

All Iowa public school districts are required to administer an annual school climate and culture survey to students in grades 3-12 called Conditions for Learning Survey (Survey). The Survey is designed to measure their engagement in school, safety and the overall learning environment.

In 2021, parents and guardians of students in preschool through grade 12 will have an opportunity to participate in a Parent/Guardian Conditions for Learning Survey as well. This new Parent/Guardian Survey will give parents and guardians added representation in school improvement efforts. The Survey contains similar items to those on the Student Survey, focusing on areas that range from student safety, to positive adult and student relationships, to school rules and how they are enforced.

The Parent/Guardian Survey, which is available in English and Spanish, will be accessible to parents and guardians from April 5 to May 28, 2021 online. The Survey will ask that all parents or guardians of children in preschool through grade 12 complete the first four questions, which the Department of Education must collect as required to report under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). However, no person is required to complete the survey and participation is voluntary. The remaining Conditions for Learning questions are optional to answer. A copy of the items on the Survey is available by request.

Responses to the online Parent/Guardian Survey are confidential and the results are completely anonymous. No names are recorded, and no identifying information is attached to specific responses. The results of the Survey will be provided back to the school to be used with the Student Survey results for identifying areas of strengths, and areas for improvement.

Thank you for your involvement in Linn-Mar Community Schools to improve conditions for learning here and throughout the state. An overview of the Survey is included.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Shannon Bisgard, Linn-Mar Superintendent

INFORMATION SUMMARY FOR PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY

From April 5-May 28, 2021 you will be invited to complete the online Parent/Guardian Survey (Survey). Participation in the Survey is confidential and anonymous. Parents and guardians of students in preschool through grade 12 are requested to complete the first four questions, and may optionally complete the Conditions for Learning Survey questions. No person is required to complete the Survey and participation is completely voluntary. The Survey will take about 15 minutes to complete.

Purpose of the Survey

The purpose of completing the Parent/Guardian Survey is to obtain your perceptions of how your child/children experience your school's climate/culture. You may repeat the Survey for each child that is in preschool through grade 12. The information collected will be used to improve school safety, student engagement and the overall learning environment in the school and statewide. You will be asked to take the Survey online. Let your principal know if you do not have access to a computer/smartphone.

Confidentiality:

All information collected will be nameless. You will not put your name, birth date, or any other information that would identify you on the Survey and all questionnaires will be private. You will be asked to provide whether your child is receiving special education services, and the age and race or ethnicity of your child for federally required reporting purposes. Information across adults will be added together and reported as a school district group. Results are aggregated and only reported by subgroups (e.g. grade of student, race or ethnicity of student) for which there are at least 10 respondents.

Compensation:

There will be no payment or reward for adults filling out the Survey.

Voluntary:

All parents/guardians will be invited to fill out the Parent/Guardian Survey. You have the right to refuse to answer any questions on the Survey. Completion of the Parent/Guardian Survey is considered a consent to participate for the adult.

Risk:

There is no direct risk involved in filling out the Parent/Guardian Survey. The Survey may ask about topics that are sensitive.

Benefits:

The data collected throughout the state will provide schools and communities with the information they need to provide programs that will assist schools in providing safe and supportive environments that engage all students in learning.

Questions:

Questions regarding the Parent/Guardian Survey are welcome. Please contact your school principal or the contact below if you have any questions or concerns:

Iowa Department of Education: cfl@iowa.gov