

## Student Survey – High School

The high school student survey asks questions about students' overall school experience and takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete (additional topic modules add about 5 minutes each in survey length and are limited to 2). 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 college or my career; 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 do my best; 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 does not do enough to get me ready for college or my future career; 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 am getting a high-quality education at this school.
- What I learn in class helps me outside of school.
- My teachers' expectations make me want to do my best.
- I try to do my best in school.
- I take pride in my schoolwork.
- I enjoy school most of the time.

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

- 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).

Did you consider dropping out for any of the following reasons? (Yes or No)

(If yes) Why did you consider dropping out? (I didn't feel safe at school; I didn't feel safe going to and from school; I didn't see how the work I was doing would help me in my life; I failed state or other standardized tests; I had fallen behind in school and felt like I couldn't catch up; I needed to work and make money instead of spending most of my day in school; I had personal problems at home; I had problems with other students at school; I was discouraged by an adult(s) at school; Other (please specify))

**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)

- \*The work that I do for my classes makes me really think.
- In most of my classes, we learn a lot almost every day.
- Most of my teachers want me to explain my answers – why I think what I think.
- \*My teachers give me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- Most of my teachers don't let people give up when the work gets hard.
- In most of my classes, we learn to correct our mistakes.
- Most of my teachers want us to use our thinking skills, not just memorize things.
- \*In order to receive a good grade, I have to work hard in my classes.
- \*I can tell that my teachers understand the subjects that they are teaching.

\* 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**

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 tell that my English teacher understands the subject that (s)he is teaching.
- In order to receive a good grade in my English class, I have to work hard.
- My English teacher gives me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- The work that I do for my English class makes me really think.

**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)*

- I can tell that my math teacher understands the subject that he/she is teaching.
- In order to receive a good grade in my math class, I have to work hard.
- My math teacher gives me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- The work that I do for my math class makes me really think.

**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)*

- I can tell that my science teacher understands the subject that he/she is teaching.
- In order to receive a good grade in my science class, I have to work hard.
- My science teacher gives me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- The work that I do for my science class makes me really think.

**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)*

- I can tell that my social studies teacher understands the subject that he/she is teaching.
- In order to receive a good grade in my social studies class, I have to work hard.
- My social studies teacher gives me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- The work that I do for my social studies class makes me really think.

**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)*

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

Is there an adult from school... *(Yes; No; Not sure)*

- ...who would be willing to help you with a personal problem?
- ...you could ask to write you a recommendation for a job, program, scholarship, or college?

When I'm feeling upset, stressed, or having problems, there is an adult from school who I can talk to about it. (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor Disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

**Belonging & Peer Collaboration** – Describes the degree to which students have supportive, 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*)

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

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*)

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

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

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.
- 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.

Adults from my school respect people of 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

Are you part of school 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)

**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 I 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 a device; Distractions at home and family responsibilities; Feeling depressed, stressed, or anxious; My health or the health of my family members; Extracurricular commitments; My job; There is not an adult who can help me with my school work; Getting picked on or bullied; My personal relationships; Other (please specify)*)

**College & Career Readiness** – Describes the degree to which students feel equipped to pursue college and careers.

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*)

- My school has helped me develop the skills and knowledge I will need for college-level classes.
- My school has helped me understand the steps I need to take in order to apply to college.
- My school has helped me figure out which careers match my interests and abilities.
- My school has helped me understand the steps I need to take in order to have the career that I want.

Do you want to go to college? (Yes; No; *I'm not sure*)

After you finish high school, what do you expect to do next? (*Join the military; Work full time at a job; Attend a 2-year college; Attend a 4-year college; Attend a trade/technical school; I'm not sure; Other (please specify)*)

Have your plans for what to do after high school changed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic? (Yes; No; *I'm not sure*)

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, what did you expect to do after graduating high school? *(Join the military; Work full time at a job; Attend a 2-year college; Attend a 4-year college; Attend a trade/technical school; I'm not sure; Other (please specify))*

This year, have you participated in any of the following services from your school? *(Help choosing classes needed to graduate; College entrance exam preparation (SAT/ACT); Counseling about how to pay for college; Counseling about how to apply to college; Counseling about admissions requirements for different types of colleges; Counseling about future career possibilities)*

- *(If yes) How helpful have these services been to you? (1 = Not at all helpful; 5 = Very helpful)*

**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... *(Physically; Verbally; Socially; Through cyberbullying; I'm not sure; I have not been bullied or harassed during the 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, do you think it happened for any of the following reasons? *(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 or not you are); How much money your family has; A disability that you have; Other reasons (please specify); I prefer not to say)*

## Demographics

- What grade are you in? *(9th; 10th; 11th; 12th; 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)*
- Choose the letter grade that corresponds with your cumulative grade point average (GPA) for all subjects in high school. *(A+; A; A-; B+; B; B-; C+; C; C-; D+; D; D-; E/F; 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) 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)*
- 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)*

# YouthTruth

STUDENT SURVEY

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- 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, I am taking this survey *(In-person at school, Virtually, Other)*
- 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.

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