School Climate Survey Suite
Administration Manual

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School Climate Survey Suite
Introduction and Purpose
The School Climate Survey Suite is a set multidimensional surveys to measure student perceptions of school climate.

- School Climate Survey: Elementary
- School Climate Survey: Middle/High

The surveys are brief, reliable, and valid for assessing perceived school climate among students in Grades 3-12.1,2 Teams can use each survey separately or in combination to assess perceptions. Each survey includes a set of demographic questions about the participant and a number of questions related to school climate with Likert-type response option.

School Climate Survey: Elementary
The School Climate Survey: Elementary obtains elementary school student perceptions of school climate in a single scale. This 11-item survey uses a 4-point rating scale (from Never to Always). Elementary school students (typically grades 3-5) complete the survey during school hours using campus computers under the guidance of teachers or other appropriate school personnel. If an elementary school includes grade 6, these students should also complete the elementary survey. The time to complete the survey is approximately 10-15 minutes.

School Climate Survey: Middle/High
The School Climate Survey: Middle/High provides schools with an overall understanding of how middle and high school students perceive school climate. This 9-item survey uses a 4-point rating scale (from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree). Middle and high school students (typically grades 6-12) complete the survey during school hours using campus computers under the guidance of teachers or other appropriate school personnel. The time to complete the survey is approximately 10 minutes.

Recommendations for Schools with Elementary and Middle/High School Students
For schools with grades that span both surveys (e.g., K-8 schools), it is best to administer separate surveys for students in grades 3-5 (Elementary) and grades 6 and above (Middle/High), because the surveys have been validated only with these grades. An overall school score could then be generated by combining the Excel downloads for each survey. Alternatively, teams could administer the survey that covers the most grade levels (e.g., administer the Elementary survey for a K-8 school), but this option is not ideal.

Cost
There is no cost to use the surveys on paper or online through the PBIS Applications website (www.pbisapps.org).

Completing the Surveys
The surveys may be completed online as a multiple-response survey using the secure PBIS Assessment application (www.pbisapps.org) or using paper and pencil forms (see Appendix C).

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Schedule of Administration

The surveys can be completed once or twice per academic year. If completed twice in a year, the first administration should be completed within the first 45 days of the school year, and the last administration should be completed within the last 45 days of the school year.

Options for Sampling

Previous research provides insight into the minimum number of students and school personnel required to obtain reliable school-level data from school climate surveys. For reliable school-level measurement of school climate, research suggests sample sizes of at least 100 students and 10 teachers from each school are necessary (Hanson & Voight, 2014).  

School Climate Survey: Elementary (11 items)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Item #s Included in Subscale</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Climate</td>
<td>1-11</td>
<td>A survey to provide schools with an overall understanding of how elementary students perceive school climate along four dimensions: school connectedness, school safety, school orderliness, and peer and adult relations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Climate Survey: Middle/High (9 items)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Item #s Included in Subscale</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Climate</td>
<td>1-9</td>
<td>A survey to provide schools with an overall understanding of how middle and/or secondary students perceive school climate along three dimensions: teaching and learning, relationships, and safety.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey Results

For all surveys, higher scores represent more positive school climate perceptions. Results of the surveys can be viewed for all respondents or by grade, gender, or race/ethnicity. Reports include: Total Score, Items Score, and Subscale Score (Subscale reports are available for the School Personnel and Family surveys only). The individual responses can also be downloaded for further analysis.

Note: To preserve anonymity of respondents, if a racial or ethnic subgroup has fewer than 5 respondents in a school, results cannot be viewed for that group (or have their subgroup identified in the data download). However, these responses will be included in the overall reports.
APPENDIX A: Example Parent/Guardian Notification/Opt-out Forms

These sample forms can be used to notify parents/guardians of an upcoming School Climate Survey administration and provide the opportunity to opt out if desired. It is important to check with your district or state administrators about required or preferred language.

Example Parental Notification/Opt-out Form – School Climate Survey: Elementary

The School Climate Survey: Elementary is an anonymous survey used to identify school climate issues within our school. The survey for elementary school students includes 11 questions and should take no more than 10–15 minutes to complete. The survey is anonymous, but parents/guardians should be given the option to opt out if desired.

The data collected from the survey will be used to identify student perceptions of school climate issues within our school. School staff use the results to inform our efforts at improving our school climate. Responses are housed securely and in an anonymous format with the University of Oregon Technical Assistance Center projects for evaluation research purposes. All evaluation research projects are in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, (343 CFR 99.31 (6)) and human subjects regulations (Protection of Human Subjects 45 CFR 46).

Our desire is to involve parents in their children’s education. If you do not wish for your child to participate in this important activity, please sign and return this form to the school by ____________. If you would like to examine the survey, please come by the school between ____________, and ____________, and we will be happy to provide you with a copy for your review.

Do not return this form if your child CAN participate in this survey.

If you do not wish for your child to participate in this survey,

Please sign this form and return it to school by ____________.

I would prefer that my child NOT participate in the School Climate Survey: Elementary.

School Name ____________________________________________________________

Student Name ___________________________________________ Student Grade __________

Parent Signature ___________________________________ Date __________________

Thank you for your participation.
Example Parental Notification/Opt-out Form – School Climate Survey: Middle/High

The School Climate Survey: Middle/High is an anonymous survey used to identify school climate issues within our school. The survey for middle and high school students includes 9 questions and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. The survey is anonymous, but parents/guardians should be given the option to opt out if desired.

The data collected from the survey will be used to identify student perceptions of school climate issues within our school. School staff use the results to inform our efforts at improving our school climate. Responses are housed securely and in an anonymous format with the University of Oregon Technical Assistance Center projects for evaluation research purposes. All evaluation research projects are in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, (343 CFR 99.31 (6)) and human subjects regulations (Protection of Human Subjects 45 CFR 46).

Our desire is to involve parents in their children’s education. If you do not wish for your child to participate in this important activity, please sign and return this form to the school by ______________. If you would like to examine the survey, please come by the school between _________ and __________, and we will be happy to provide you with a copy for your review.

Do not return this form if your child CAN participate in this survey.
If you do not wish your child to participate in this survey,
Please sign this form and return it to school by ______________.

I would prefer that my child NOT participate in the School Climate Survey: Middle/High.

School Name __________________________________________________________

Student Name __________________________________________ Student Grade __________

Parent Signature __________________________________________ Date ________________

Thank you for your participation.
APPENDIX B: Example Survey Administration Scripts

Use these scripts as examples for how to introduce the survey to students immediately before they complete it.

Introducing the Elementary Survey

We want to know what you think about your school. There are no right or wrong answers—this is not a test! We just want to know how you feel. Your answers give us important information to help your school become even better.

Your answers are anonymous, which means your teachers or family will not see your answers. No one will ever see how you filled out your own survey.

Please read each item carefully and mark one choice for each item. Please answer all of the questions, or your answers won’t count, but you can mark “I prefer not to answer” if you don’t want to answer a question about you. If you need help reading a question, you may ask the person giving the survey or your teacher.

This survey should take you about 10-15 minutes.

Thank you for taking this survey!

Introducing the Middle/High School Survey

We have asked you here to complete this survey in order to help all members of the school (students, parents, and school personnel) understand how you feel about your school.

There are no right or wrong answers—this is not a test! We just want to know how you feel. Your responses will provide us with important information to help your school become even better.

All of your responses are completely anonymous; your teachers and family will not see your answers. No one will ever see how you filled out your own survey.

As you respond to each item, focus on your thoughts and feelings based on your own personal experiences as a student. Please answer all of the questions or your answers won’t be recorded, but you can mark “I prefer not to answer” if you don’t want to answer a question about you. If you need help reading a question, you may ask the person giving the survey or your teacher.

This survey should take you approximately 10 minutes.

Thank you for taking this survey!
APPENDIX C: Surveys
School Climate Survey: Elementary

Please answer all of the questions or your answers won’t be recorded, but you can mark “I prefer not to answer” if you don’t want to answer a question about you.

Demographics

What is your gender or gender identity?
☐ Female  ☐ Male  ☐ Other  ☐ I prefer not to answer

What is your ethnicity?
☐ Hispanic or Latino/a  ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino/a  ☐ I prefer not to answer

What is your race? (mark all that apply)
☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native  ☐ Asian  ☐ Black or African American
☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  ☐ White  ☐ I prefer not to answer

Beyond that, is there another ethnic group with which you identify?
☐ Ethnic Group: ____________________________  ☐ I prefer not to answer.

What grade are you in?
☐ 3  ☐ 4  ☐ 5  ☐ 6

Survey Questions

1. I like school.
   ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

2. I feel like I do well in school.
   ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

3. My school wants me to do well.
   ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

4. My school has clear rules for behavior.
   ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

5. Teachers treat me with respect.
   ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

6. Good behavior is noticed at my school.
   ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

7. I get along with other students.
   ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

8. I feel safe at school.
   ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

9. Students treat each other well.
   ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

10. There is an adult at my school who will help me if I need it.
    ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

11. Students in my class behave so that teachers can teach.
    ☐ Never  ☐ Sometimes  ☐ Often  ☐ Always

School Climate Survey: Middle/High

Please answer all of the questions or your answers won’t be recorded, but you can mark “I prefer not to answer” if you don’t want to answer a question about you.

Demographics

What is your gender or gender identity?  
☐ Female  ☐ Male  ☐ Transgender  
☐ I prefer not to answer

Which of the following best describes you?  
☐ Heterosexual (straight)  ☐ Gay or Lesbian  ☐ Bisexual  
☐ I prefer not to answer

What is your ethnicity?  
☐ Hispanic or Latino/a  ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino/a  
☐ I prefer not to answer

What is your race? (mark all that apply)  
☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native  
☐ Asian  
☐ Black or African American  
☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  
☐ White  
☐ I prefer not to answer

Beyond that, is there another ethnic group with which you identify?  
☐ Ethnic Group: ____________________________  
☐ I prefer not to answer.

What grade are you in?  
☐ 6  ☐ 7  ☐ 8  ☐ 9  ☐ 10  ☐ 11  ☐ 12  ☐ I prefer not to answer

Survey Questions

1. I like school.
   ☐ Strongly Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Agree  ☐ Strongly Agree

2. I feel successful at school.
   ☐ Strongly Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Agree  ☐ Strongly Agree

3. I feel my school has high standards for achievement.
   ☐ Strongly Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Agree  ☐ Strongly Agree

4. My school sets clear rules for behavior.
   ☐ Strongly Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Agree  ☐ Strongly Agree

5. Teachers treat me with respect.
   ☐ Strongly Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Agree  ☐ Strongly Agree

6. The behaviors in my class allow the teachers to teach.
   ☐ Strongly Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Agree  ☐ Strongly Agree

7. Students are frequently recognized for good behavior.
   ☐ Strongly Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Agree  ☐ Strongly Agree

8. School is a place at which I feel safe.
   ☐ Strongly Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Agree  ☐ Strongly Agree

9. I know an adult at school that I can talk with if I need help.
   ☐ Strongly Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Disagree  ☐ Somewhat Agree  ☐ Strongly Agree