

# Student, Family, and Staff Survey Questions for Sonoma County Schools

For Academic Years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24

Last Updated February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022

(note: the only changes were re-ordering sections to better align with reports)

YouthTruth is a national nonprofit that harnesses student and stakeholder perceptions to help educators accelerate improvements. Through validated survey instruments and tailored advisory services, YouthTruth partners with schools and districts to enhance learning for all students.



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## Student Survey - High School

This high school student survey is designed will take students, on average, 25 minutes to complete. This time estimate does not account for technical set up (logging on to a computer), or time for the proctor to share instructions and answer questions. While some students may complete the survey more quickly, others will need more time. Please plan accordingly.

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)
- The COVID pandemic has changed learning for many students. Is there anything you think your school should know about how this change has been for you or that your school can do to help you during this period of change?

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**

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)

- 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 getting a high-quality education at this school.
- 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**

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.

#### **Culture**

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 or faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

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)

#### **Belonging & Peer Collaboration**

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?

## **Bullying Questions**

- 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 because... (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)



## Relationships

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)

## **College & Career Readiness**

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)



## Career Technical Education Work-Based Learning Custom Questions

This year, have you participated in any of the following school activities to help you learn about careers in Sonoma County?

- Watching career videos
- Listening to guest speakers talk about careers
- Mentorship
- Classroom project assistance from a business person
- Mock interviews
- Resume workshop
- Job shadow
- Internship
- Job-related competition or fairs?

(Yes; No; I'm not sure)

(If yes) This year, which of the following career exploration activities have you participated in? (multi-select)

- Watching career videos
- Listening to guest speakers talk about careers
- Mentorship
- Classroom project assistance from a business person
- Mock interviews
- Resume workshop
- Job shadow
- Internship
- Job-related competition or fairs

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

[Matrix question with display logic to only display "yes" answers with helpfulness scale]

#### **Obstacles to Learning**

Do any of the following make it hard for you to do your best in school? (Limited or no internet access; Not feeling safe at home; Not feeling 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; Not having an adult who can help me with my school work; Getting picked on or bullied; My personal relationships; Other (please specify))

## **Resilience Questions 2.0**

Think about your personal experience with recent California wildfires.

- How much have the recent wildfires affected you? (1 = Not at all; 2 = A little bit; 3= Somewhat; 4
   = Moderately; 5 = Significantly)
- Do you or your family have pressing fire-recovery needs? (Yes; No; I'm not sure)

Think about your community outside of school, for example, people and places in your neighborhood.

• I feel safe in my community.



- I feel like a real part of my community.
- I feel like my community cares about me and my well-being.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1=Strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree)

• If there is an emergency at my school, I know how to keep myself safe.

## **Project-Based Learning**

During the past month, how often have you done the following? (1 = Very rarely; 2 = Somewhat rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Somewhat often; 5 = Very often)

- Discussed real-world issues that need solutions with other students.
- Discussed real-world issues that need solutions with your teacher.
- Worked with other students to design a solution to a real-world problem.
- Revised a project with other students to make it better.
- Revised a project with your teacher to make it better.
- Shared or presented your project(s).

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)

- In school, I can find solutions to problems that I haven't been taught how to solve.
- Outside of school, I think about how to solve problems using lessons I learned in class.
- The projects that we do in school help prepare me for careers that interest me.
- The projects that we do in school help prepare me for college.
- I care more about what I'm learning when I feel like I'm solving a real-world problem.
- I learn lessons more deeply with projects than with other types of assignments.
- I have learned how to work well with other students by participating in group projects.
- Doing projects makes me a better student (for example: I get better grades; I understand the subject better).

Are projects the main way you learn in the following subjects? (Yes; No; I'm not sure)

- Math
- English/Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies or History

## **Emotional and Mental Health**

In the last twelve months, have you... (Yes; No; Can't remember)

- ...talked to a school counselor, a therapist, or a psychologist because you were upset, stressed, or having problems?
- ...ever felt so sad or hopeless <u>almost every day for two weeks or more</u> that you stopped doing some usual activities?
- ...seriously considered attempting suicide?

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? ( $1 = Not \ at \ all; \ 2 = Not \ Very \ Much; \ 3 = Somewhat; \ 4 = A \ moderate \ amount; \ 5 = Very \ much)$ 

When I'm feeling upset, stressed, or having problems...



- o ... I know someone outside of school who I can talk to about it.
- ... My school has programs or services that can help me.
- o ... I know some ways to make myself feel better or cope with it.

Think about your life lately. How happy have you been feeling this week? (1 = Never happy; 2 = Rarely happy; 3 = Sometimes happy; 4 = Often happy; 5 = Happy all the time)

Think about your life lately. How relaxed have you been feeling this week? (1 = Never relaxed; 2 = Rarely relaxed; 3 = Sometimes relaxed; 4 = Often relaxed; 5 = Relaxed all the time)

Think about your life lately. How sad have you been feeling this week? (1 = Never sad; 2 = Rarely sad; 3 = Sometimes sad; 4 = Often sad; 5 = Sad all the time)

Think about your life lately. How stressed have you been feeling this week? (1 = Never stressed; 2 = Rarely stressed; 3 = Sometimes stressed; 4 = Often stressed; 5 = Stressed all the time)

Overall, how do you feel about your life? (Five-point sad to happy emoticon scale)

## **Drugs and Alcohol**

During the past month, how often did you: (Never; 1-3 times a month; About once a week; 2-3 days a week; 4-5 days a week; 6-7 days a week)

- Smoke cigarettes or chew tobacco?
- Use electronic cigarettes, hookah pens, vape pens or other vaping devices?
- Have at least one drink of alcohol? (One drink = one beer, one shot, one mixed drink)
- Use marijuana (pot, weed, hash)?
- Misuse a medicine (for example: cough syrup, Ritalin, painkillers) to get high?
- Use any other illegal drug or pill to get high?
- Misuse any other legal substance (for example: paint or glue) to get high?



## **Demographics**

- What grade are you in? (9th; 10th; 11th; 12th; Other)
- How do you describe yourself? (Boy/Man; Girl/Woman; Non-binary or gender non-conforming; I Prefer to self-describe/identify (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)
- How would you describe your race and/or ethnicity? (Please check one) (American Indian,
   Alaska Native or Indigenous; Asian or Asian American; Black or African American; Hispanic or
   Latino/a/x; Middle Eastern or North African; Multi-racial and/or Multi-ethnic; Native Hawaiian
   or Pacific Islander, White; Race or ethnicity not included above (optional, please describe); Prefer
   not to say)
- Do you identify as a person of color? (Yes; No; 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 ELD/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)
- 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)
- 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.)
  - o Right now, I am taking this survey (In-person at school, Virtually, Other)
- Do you consider yourself to be: (Please check one) (Gay or lesbian; Straight or heterosexual; Bisexual\*; Another identity not included above (optional, please describe); I am not sure; Prefer not to say) \*A person who is attracted to people of the same or other genders.
- Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual) community? (Please check only one) (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)
- Are you transgender? (Please check only one) (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)



## Student Survey – Middle School

This middle school student survey is designed will take students, on average, 25 minutes to complete. This time estimate does not account for technical set up (logging on to a computer), or time for the proctor to share instructions and answer questions. While some students may complete the survey more quickly, others will need more time. Please plan accordingly.

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.)
- The COVID pandemic has changed learning for many students. Is there anything you think your school should know about how this change has been for you or that your school can do to help you during this period of change?

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, quidance counselor, or principal.



#### **Engagement**

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).
- My teachers' expectations make me want to do my best.
- I try to do my best in school.
- I am getting a high-quality education at this school.

## **Academic Challenge**

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.

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

## **Culture**

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.

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

- Religions or faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

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

## **Belonging & Peer Collaboration**

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...  $(1 = Very \ rarely; 2 = Somewhat \ Rarely; 3 = Somewhat \ often; 5 = Very \ often)$ 

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

## **Bullying Questions**

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)

#### **Relationships**

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, 1 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.

## **Obstacles to Learning**

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

#### **Resilience Questions 2.0**

Think about your personal experience with recent California wildfires.

- How much have the recent wildfires affected you? (1 = Not at all; 2 = A little bit; 3 = Somewhat; 4 = Moderately; 5 = Significantly)
- Do you or your family have pressing fire-recovery needs? (Yes; No; I'm not sure)

Think about your community outside of school, for example, people and places in your neighborhood.

- I feel safe in my community.
- I feel like a real part of my community.
- I feel like my community cares about me and my well-being.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1=Strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree)

If there is an emergency at my school, I know how to keep myself safe.

## **Project-Based Learning**

During the past month, how often have you done the following? (1 = Very rarely; 2 = Somewhat rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Somewhat often; 5 = Very often)

- Discussed real-world issues that need solutions with other students.
- Discussed real-world issues that need solutions with your teacher.
- Worked with other students to design a solution to a real-world problem.
- Revised a project with other students to make it better.
- Revised a project with your teacher to make it better.
- Shared or presented your project(s).



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)

- In school, I can find solutions to problems that I haven't been taught how to solve.
- Outside of school, I think about how to solve problems using lessons I learned in class.
- The projects that we do in school help prepare me for careers that interest me.
- The projects that we do in school help prepare me for college.
- I care more about what I'm learning when I feel like I'm solving a real-world problem.
- I learn lessons more deeply with projects than with other types of assignments.
- I have learned how to work well with other students by participating in group projects.
- Doing projects makes me a better student (for example: I get better grades; I understand the subject better).

Are projects the main way you learn in the following subjects? (Yes; No; I'm not sure)

- Math
- English/Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies or History

#### **Emotional and Mental Health**

In the last twelve months, have you... (Yes; No; Can't remember)

- ...talked to a school counselor, a therapist, or a psychologist because you were upset, stressed, or having problems?
- ...ever felt so sad or hopeless <u>almost every day for two weeks or more</u> that you stopped doing some usual activities?
- ...seriously considered attempting suicide?

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? ( $1 = Not \ at \ all; \ 2 = Not \ Very \ Much; \ 3 = Somewhat; \ 4 = A \ moderate \ amount; \ 5 = Very \ much)$ 

When I'm feeling upset, stressed, or having problems...

- o ... I know someone outside of school who I can talk to about it.
- o ... My school has programs or services that can help me.
- o ... I know some ways to make myself feel better or cope with it.

Think about your life lately. How happy have you been feeling this week? ( $1 = Never\ happy$ ;  $2 = Rarely\ happy$ ;  $3 = Sometimes\ happy$ ;  $4 = Often\ happy$ ;  $5 = Happy\ all\ the\ time$ )

Think about your life lately. How relaxed have you been feeling this week? ( $1 = Never\ relaxed$ ;  $2 = Rarely\ relaxed$ ;  $3 = Sometimes\ relaxed$ ;  $4 = Often\ relaxed$ ;  $5 = Relaxed\ all\ the\ time$ )

Think about your life lately. How sad have you been feeling this week? (1 = Never sad; 2 = Rarely sad; 3 = Sometimes sad; 4 = Often sad; 5 = Sad all the time)

Think about your life lately. How stressed have you been feeling this week? (1 = Never stressed; 2 = Rarely stressed; 3 = Sometimes stressed; 4 = Often stressed; 5 = Stressed all the time)



Overall, how do you feel about your life? (Five-point sad to happy emoticon scale)

## **Demographics**

- What grade are you in? (5th; 6th; 7th; 8th; Other)
- How do you describe yourself? (Boy/Man; Girl/Woman; Non-binary or gender non-conforming; I Prefer to self-describe/identify (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)
- How would you describe your race and/or ethnicity? (Please check one) (American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous; Asian or Asian American; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino/a/x; Middle Eastern or North African; Multi-racial and/or Multi-ethnic; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White; Race or ethnicity not included above (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)
- Do you identify as a person of color? (Yes; No; 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) 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 ELD/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)
- 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)
- 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)
- Do you consider yourself to be: (Please check one) (Gay or lesbian; Straight or heterosexual; Bisexual\*; Another identity not included above (optional, please describe); I am not sure; Prefer not to say) \*A person who is attracted to people of the same or other genders.
- Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual) community? (Please check only one) \* (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)
- Are you transgender? (Please check only one) (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)



## Student Survey - Elementary School

This elementary school student survey is designed will take students, on average, 16 minutes to complete. This time estimate does not account for technical set up (logging on to a computer), or time for the proctor to share instructions and answer questions. While some students may complete the survey more quickly, others will need more time. Please plan accordingly.

So far this school year, how have you attended classes? (At school; At home; Both in-person at school and at home)

## **Strengths & Weaknesses**

- What do you like most about your school? (My teacher wants me to try hard and do my best; My teacher cares about me and helps me; Students show respect in class; My class makes me really think; I like the way we learn in class; Something else; Nothing I can't think of anything I like about my school)
- What do you dislike most about your school? (My teacher lets me give up and not do my best;
  My teacher doesn't care about me or help me very much; Students don't show much respect in
  class; My class doesn't really make me think; I don't like the way we learn in class; Something
  else; Nothing I can't think of anything I dislike about my school)

## **Engagement**

- Does your teacher ask you to keep trying when the work gets hard? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Do you like attending your class(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Do you think your teacher wants you to work your hardest? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Does your teacher want you to do your best? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)

## Relationships

- Does your teacher give you extra help if you need it? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Do you like the way your teacher treats you when you need help? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Do you think your teacher cares about you? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Is your teacher fair to you? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Does your teacher ask you about your life at home? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Does your teacher treat you with respect? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- When I'm feeling upset, there is an adult from school I can talk to. (No; Sometimes; Yes)



#### **Culture**

- Does your class stay busy and not waste time? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Do students behave well during class? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Do students from your class treat the teacher with respect? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Do adults from your school respect people from different backgrounds? (For example: boys or girls, people with different skin colors, people from different countries) (No, not very much; Somewhat; Yes, very much)

#### Related:

Do you feel safe during school? (No, not very safe; Somewhat; Yes, very safe)

## **Academic Challenge**

- Do you learn interesting things in class? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Does what you learn during class help you outside of school? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Does your schoolwork make you really think? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Do you learn a lot in your class? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)

#### **Instructional Methods**

- Does your teacher let you explain your ideas? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- When you make a mistake, does your teacher help you correct it? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Can you find the things you need in your classroom? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often) (Only asked of students who attend school in-person.)
- Does your teacher tell you that you can do well if you work hard? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Does your teacher explain things in ways you can understand? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Does your teacher ask you to show your work? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)
- Does your teacher ask you if you understand what you are learning? (No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)

## **Belonging**

- Can you be yourself with other students? (No, hardly ever; Somewhat; Yes, very often)
- Are students friendly to you? (No, hardly ever; Somewhat; Yes, very often)
- Do you feel like a real part of your school community? (No, hardly ever; Somewhat; Yes, very often)

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

- Has anyone bullied you at school in the last year? (Yes, No, I don't know; Skip this question)
- If yes: When you were bullied did someone... (Yes, No, I don't know)
  - ...spread rumors or lies about you?
  - o ...call you mean names?



- o ...hurt your body?
- o ...post something mean about you online?
- ...Other (please specify)
- If yes: 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 because... (Yes, No, I don't know) (How you look; Your race or skin color; Because you are a boy; Because you are a girl; Because you are different than most boys; Because you are different than most girls; How much money your family has; You learn differently than other students; You physically can't do what other kids can do; Your religion; Where Your family is from; Other; Prefer not to say)
- If yes: When you were bullied, did you tell... (Yes, No, I don't know) (A grown up from school; A grown up at home; A friend or classmate; I did not tell anyone; Someone else (please specify))

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: If these questions make you feel sad or scared about anything, please talk to your teacher or a grown up you trust.

#### **Emotional and Mental Health**

When I'm feeling upset, (No; Sometimes; Yes)

- ...there is an adult outside of school I can talk to.
- …I know some ways to make myself feel better.

Think about your life lately. How happy have you been feeling this week? (Happy all the time; Sometimes happy; Never happy)

Think about your life lately. How relaxed have you been feeling this week? (*Never relaxed; Sometimes relaxed; Relaxed all the time*)

Think about your life lately. How sad have you been feeling this week? (Never sad; Sometimes sad; Sad all the time)

Think about your life lately. How stressed have you been feeling this week? (Never stressed; Sometimes stressed; Stressed all the time)

Overall, how do you feel about your life? (Happy to sad emoticon scale)

## **Project-Based Learning**

These questions ask about projects you do in class. (No, not at all; Sometimes; Yes, very much)

- Does what you learn during school help you think about what you want to do when you grow up?
- Can you figure out how to solve problems even if you haven't been taught how?
- Does your teacher use examples that connect to life outside of school?
- Do group projects make you a better student? (For example, you learn more.)

How much do you do these things during your classes? (Not very much; Sometimes; A lot)

- Work on projects with other students
- Present projects to your class
- Choose what kinds of projects you would like to work on



- Think about other ways to solve a problem
- Talk with classmates about problems in the real world
- Work on a first draft of a project to make it better

## Additional questions: (No, not at all; Sometimes; Yes, very much)

- Do the things that you learn in one subject help you in other subjects?
- Do the things that you learn during class help you outside of school?
- Does your teacher use examples that connect to what you learn in other subjects?

## **Demographics**

- What grade are you in? (3rd; 4th; 5th, Others)
- Are you a... (Boy; Girl; Skip this question)
- What is your race/ethnicity? (American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous; Asian or Asian American; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino/a/x; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White; Two or more races; Other; I don't know; Skip this question)
- Think about your life lately. How much has the virus changed your life? (Not very much; Somewhat; Very much)
- 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 at home" to the above question.) Right now, I am taking this survey (At school; At home; Other)



## **Family Survey Questions**

The Family Survey includes questions that gather parents' and guardians' feedback about their child's school and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

So far this school year, how has your child attended classes? (In-person at school, Virtually, Both in-person at school and virtually)

#### General

- What do you like most about this school? (Friendly and supportive teachers and staff; Strong academic programs; Support services and programs for parents and families; Strong extracurricular programs; Great supplies and/or facilities; Nothing; Other)
- What is one area in which this school could improve? (Teachers and staff could do more to be more friendly and supportive; Stronger academic programs; More/better support services and programs for families; Stronger extracurricular programs; Better supplies and/or facilities; Nothing; Other)
- Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your school? Please provide any comments that you'd like to share below. (Open text)
- My child is getting a high-quality education at this school. (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)
- I would recommend this school to parents seeking a school for their child. (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

#### **Culture**

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 proud of my school.
- Discipline in this school is fair.
- My school runs smoothly.
- My school respects people of different:
  - 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.
- I feel valued by my school.
- My school creates a friendly environment.
- My school's policies are administered fairly and consistently.
- I believe in my school's mission.



## **Engagement**

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)

- Parent/family members are included in planning school activities.
- I feel engaged with my school.

  I feel represented by parent/family groups (i.e. Parent-Teacher Association) at my school.
- I feel empowered to play a meaningful role in decision-making at my school.
- I feel informed about important decisions regarding my school.

## Relationships

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)

- Teachers treat families with respect.
- Families and teachers care about each other.
- Teachers and students care about each other.
- I feel comfortable approaching the school administration about my concerns.
- School administrators treat families with respect.
- I feel comfortable approaching teachers about my child's progress.

#### **Communication & Feedback**

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 receive information about what my child should learn and be able to do.
- I receive regular feedback about my child's progress.
- Teachers clearly communicate expectations for my child's progress.

## **School Safety**

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 child is safe from bullying during school.
- My child's learning environment is safe.

## Related:

My child is safe from violence at school. (not asked of families whose students are attending school virtually.)



#### Resources

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 sets high expectations for students.
- My school provides the guidance necessary to help my child succeed.
- My school has the resources necessary to achieve learning goals.
- My school has the resources necessary to prepare my child for the future.

## **Demographics**

- How many children do you have attending this school? (Just to remind you: if you have multiple children at this school, you may complete the survey again so you have the opportunity to respond about each child that attends the school.) (One (1); Two (2); Three (3); Four or more (4+))
- What grade is your child in? (Kindergarten (K); First Grade (1st); Second Grade (2nd); Third Grade (3rd); Fourth Grade (4th); Fifth Grade (5th); Sixth Grade (6th); Seventh Grade (7th); Eighth Grade (8th); Ninth Grade (9th); Tenth Grade (10th); Eleventh Grade (11th); Twelfth Grade (12th); Other (please specify))
- What is your relationship with your child? (Parent; Other (please specify))
- How do you describe yourself? (Man; Woman; Non-binary or gender non-conforming; I Prefer to self-describe/identify (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)
- Are you transgender? (Please check only one) (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)
- How would you describe your race and/or ethnicity? (Please check one) (American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous; Asian or Asian American; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino/a/x; Middle Eastern or North African; Multi-racial and/or Multi-ethnic; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White; Race or ethnicity not included above (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)
- Do you identify as a person of color? (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)
- Does your child have an IEP (individualized education program or plan), receive special education services, or receive 504 services? (Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)
- What is the primary language spoken in your home? (Chinese; English; Korean; Spanish; Tagalog; Russian; Vietnamese; Other (please specify))
- What is the highest level of education that you have completed? (Some high school; High school/GED; Some college; Associate degree or technical certificate; Bachelor's Degree; Graduate Degree; 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)



## **Staff Survey Questions**

The Staff Survey includes questions that gather instructional and non-instructional school staff members' perspectives on their school and takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

#### General

So far this school year, I work ... (In-person; Virtually; Both in-person and virtually)

What is your primary role? \* (instructional staff, support staff, other)

\* Instructional staff are defined as individuals who instruct pupils in classes or courses, or in classroom situations. Some examples of instructional staff roles are K-12 teachers, ELL/ELD teachers, special education teachers, instructional assistants/paraprofessionals, and speech therapists. Support staff are defined as individuals who do not primarily engage in teaching activities. Some examples of support staff roles are administrators, counselors, custodial/janitorial staff, librarians, and technology coordinators.

What kind of instructional staff are you? \* (Teacher, other)

\* Only asked to those that answered instructional staff to the above question.

What do you like most about your school? (My school administrators are friendly and supportive; My work at this school gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment; I am treated with respect by school administrators and other staff; I have access to high-quality professional development opportunities; My school has great supplies and/or facilities; Nothing; Other)

What is one area in which your school could improve? (My school administrators could do more to be friendly and supportive; I would like the work that I do at this school to give me more of a feeling of personal accomplishment; I would like to be treated with more respect by the school administration and other staff; I would like more access to high-quality professional development opportunities; My school needs better supplies and/or facilities; Nothing; Other)

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your school? Please provide any comments that you'd like to share below. (Open text)

Students are getting a high-quality education at this school. (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

I would recommend this school to a friend or colleague as a great place to work (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

I am not seriously considering leaving [School Name] next academic year. (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

### **Culture**

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)

Information about school policies is disseminated to staff clearly.



- Discipline in this school is fair.
- My school communicates a clear direction for the future.
- My school respects people of different:
  - Religions and faiths.
  - Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
  - Learning abilities.
  - o Gender identities. (e.g. men, women, people who identify in a different way)
  - Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
  - o Races/ethnicities.
  - Countries of origin.
- I feel informed about important decisions regarding my school.
- My school is managed effectively.
- My school sets high expectations for students.
- My school creates a positive work environment.
- My school runs smoothly.
- My school's employees are committed to the success of our school.
- My school's policies are administered fairly and consistently.

## **Relationships**

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)

- Staff and families care about each other.
- My school is cooperative and team oriented.
- Staff treat each other with respect.
- Teachers in my schoolwork together to improve instructional practice.
- Staff treat families with respect.
- Staff treat administrators with respect.
- Families treat staff with respect.
- Staff and students care about each other.
- Administrators treat staff with respect.
- Staff and administrators care about each other.
- I feel comfortable approaching the administration if I need help solving a problem.
- Students treat staff with respect.
- Staff treat students with respect.
- I feel comfortable approaching other staff members if I need help solving a problem.
- I feel comfortable speaking honestly to families about their child's progress. (Instructional Staff Only)

#### **Engagement**

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 empowers me to use creativity in how I do my work.
- I am proud of my school.
- My job makes good use of my skills and abilities.
- I feel that my work contributes to the goals of my school.
- I feel that my work at my school is valued.



- I understand my school's goals.
- I feel empowered to play a meaningful role in decision-making at my school.
- My work gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment.

## **Professional Development & Support**

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 have the necessary resources to do my job well.
- The feedback I receive from my colleagues helps me improve my work.
- My professional development over the last year has been closely connected with my school's priorities.
- I have opportunities to learn at work.
- I receive regular feedback from my supervisors.
- I receive regular feedback from my colleagues.
- The feedback I receive from my supervisors helps me improve my work.
- I have opportunities to grow professionally at work.
- I have access to meaningful professional development.
- My professional development over the last year has provided me with content support. (Instructional Staff Only)
- My professional development over the last year has provided me with teaching strategies to better meet my students' needs. (Instructional Staff Only)
- My school supports me in implementing what I have learned in professional development. (Instructional Staff Only)
- My school encourages me to seek professional development opportunities to improve my practice. (Instructional Staff Only)

## **School Safety**

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)

- Students are safe from bullying at my school.
- Adults at my school try to stop bullying and harassment.
- During school, there are clear rules for students against hurting other people (for example bullying, hitting, or pushing).
- I feel safe from harm during school.
- Students are safe from violence at my school. (Not asked of staff who are working remotely.)

## **Demographics**

- How long have you worked at this school? (0-4 years; 5-9 years; 10-20 years; More than 20 years)
- How do you describe yourself? (Man; Woman; Non-binary or gender non-conforming; I Prefer to self-describe/identify (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)
- Are you transgender? (Please check only one) (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)
- How would you describe your race and/or ethnicity? (Please check one) (American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous; Asian or Asian American; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino/a/x;



Middle Eastern or North African; Multi-racial and/or Multi-ethnic; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White; Race or ethnicity not included above (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)

- Do you identify as a person of color? (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)
- What kind of teacher training did you receive? (Instructional Staff only) (University Certification; Alternative Certification (Teach for America, etc.); Other Training/Non-Certified)
- How many years of teaching experience do you have? (Instructional Staff only) (0-4 years; 5-9 years; 10-20 years; More than 20 years)
- How many years of experience do you have in your role? (Support Staff or Other only) (0-4 years; 5-9 years; 10-20 years; More than 20 years)
- What is your role? (Instructional staff; Support staff; Other (please specify))
- 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)