

### **KEY SURVEY UPDATES FOR 2025**

# Why?

**We heard you.** District leaders, school staff, students, and families all shared valuable feedback that the survey was too long. In response, we've shortened the 2025 School Climate & Connectedness Survey to focus on the topics that matter most— those that are most linked to student outcomes like attendance, academic success, and engagement.

Working closely with districts and American Institutes for Research (AIR), we made updates to **improve survey clarity**, **strengthen data quality**, and ensure the tool reflects **best practices in school climate research**.

## What's the Impact?

**Survey results for 2025 cannot be directly compared to past years' data.** Trend data and comparisons have been removed from Panorama when viewing 2025 surveys. However, past data remains accessible, and districts can still use it to inform ongoing efforts.

More information about how to use your 2025 results can be found <u>here</u>.

# Evolving With Alaska's Schools

For over a decade, the School Climate & Connectedness Survey (SCCS) has been a trusted tool for Alaska's schools, helping measure and improve conditions for learning. As education and school climate research have evolved, so have the needs of our districts and communities. The 2025 updates reflect this shift—drawing on the latest research linking school climate to attendance and academic success, and responding to feedback for a tool that better serves today's students. These changes mark an important step forward, ensuring SCCS remains a relevant, powerful resource for driving positive change across Alaska.



The School Climate & Connectedness Survey underwent significant revisions in 2025!

# What are the Key Changes?

**Updated Scales for Clearer Insights:** We have moved from a five-point scale to a four-point scale, removing the neutral option. This change allows for a more accurate picture of school climate by clearly identifying favorable and unfavorable responses.





**Reduced Overlap:** We've removed the two student risk behavior scales (drugs and alcohol, delinquent behaviors) from the 6th-12th grade and staff surveys, as tools like YRBS and other data sources schools have access to already cover this.

**Shortened Survey:** We've shortened surveys across all groups, prioritizing the most actionable and relevant content. The family survey, for example, is now nearly half as long—making it easier for more families to participate.



**Streamlined and Combined:** Some survey topics have been combined based on the analysis with AIR. For example, Peer Climate is now included within School Safety, and Community Support is part of Community Involvement.

**Improved Safety Scale:** The student 3-5 survey safety scale now includes additional questions on students' feelings of safety as they move throughout the school.

AASB is here to help you navigate these changes and use your data for planning and decision-making! Book a consultation or data exploration workshop today.