



How to Read Your 2025 School Climate and Connectedness Survey Results

Can I see individual student, staff, or family results?

No. The survey is anonymous, and individual responses are confidential. Responses are combined and reported by school, district and statewide. If there are too few responses, they are not reported at the school level to protect confidentiality.

How many responses do there need to be for results to appear?

To protect the confidentiality of individuals, a minimum of 6 responses must be received to create an aggregate report. If there are fewer than 6 responses in a school, the school's data is not displayed in these reports (but included in district and statewide figures).

How are the results scored?

Results are scored in "Percent Favorable." When a question is scored as "75% favorable," this means that 75% of respondents selected a favorable answer choice. Most often, the top two answer choices are favorable for a question with four or five answer choices, and the top one answer choice is favorable for a question with three answer choices.

What do the topic scores show for students in grades 6–12 and for staff?

For all items, the respondent had four options from which to choose. Most answer options ranged from Strongly disagree to Strongly agree. For student questions on Social and Emotional Learning, the respondent had four answer options from which to choose, ranging from Very Easy to Very Difficult. The topic score is an average of all question scores in that topic. Therefore, the higher the topic score, the better the school climate or connectedness in that area

What do the topic scores show for students in grades 3–5?

For the student questions on Caring for Others and School Safety the respondent had four items from which to choose ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree. For student questions on Social and Emotional Learning the respondent had three options from which to choose a response: No, Sometimes, and Yes. The topic score is an average of all question scores in that topic. Therefore, the higher the average topic score, the better.

What do the topic scores show for respondents in the family survey?

For all items, the respondent had four options from which to choose ranging from Strongly disagree to Strongly agree. The topic score for these is an average of all question scores in that topic. Therefore, the higher the topic score, the better the school climate or connectedness in that area. The rest of the family survey topics were unscored. (see next question)

What does it mean if a question is "unscored"?

An unscored question (typically demographic questions) will not have a percent favorable attached to them on reports. The possible answer choices do not fall on a spectrum of

“favorable” or “unfavorable”, so it would not be accurate to associate a score. An example of an “unscored” question is: “What grade are you in?”

What does ‘Compared to’ mean?

To help put results in context, topic scores are compared to the average score for other groups in your state or district. For example, while one of your topic scores may appear low compared to another topic score, you may find that the score is higher than your school or district's average topic score. Use this comparison to find areas for celebration or improvement.

Compared to ?

Elementary ▾

Elementary

Urban Schools

Participating Alaska Districts

How reliable are the SCCS topics?

SCCS topics have adequate reliability, as they have gone through Cronbach's alpha measure for reliability (internal consistency) by the American Institutes for Research.

Did we exclude any responses? If so, why?

Yes, all survey results have gone through a data-cleaning process, which led to some survey responses being excluded. In even well-designed and administered surveys, a small minority of respondents do not provide useful data. Instead, they rush through the survey without reading or answering questions. This is called survey “satisficing.” It is an unavoidable part of any survey data collection, and data “cleaning” more generally is a best practice of nearly all analytic efforts.

How did we eliminate respondents?

We used survey completion time (how long it took each respondent to complete the survey) and rate (what proportion of questions they answered) to identify satisficers. More specifically, respondents who did not answer a majority of questions were excluded from analysis. We also excluded staff who took less than 4 seconds per completed question, older students (grades 6-12) who took less than 4 seconds per completed question, and younger students (grades 3-5) who took less than 5 seconds per completed question. We arrived at these cutoffs by examining the distribution of these variables, the statistical relationship among variables, and their relationship to survey straight-lining (responding with the same answer many times in a row). We were much better at identifying straight-lining younger students, for example, by using a time cutoff of 4 seconds per item versus 5 seconds per item.

How many responses were excluded?

We examined exclusion rates and while there were unique instances of schools with 10% or more of responses rejected, this was not widespread. Overall, the percentage of responses rejected across the survey program were consistent with years past and are the following:

- **Students, Grades 3-5:** 2.3%
- **Students, Grades 6-12:** 4.2%
- **Staff:** 6.0%
- **Family:** 1.7%