



**SCHOOL CLIMATE &
CONNECTEDNESS SURVEY**
ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS

SCCS Lunch and Learn



Thursday October 16, 2025



Your AASB SCCS Support Team

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Meeting Objectives



What is School Climate and Why Measure it

Survey Updates in 2025

Panorama Platform and Navigation

Making Meaning from Data: Tips

Ongoing Resources and Support



School Climate and Connectedness



What is School Climate?

School climate is a broad, multifaceted concept that involves many aspects of the student's educational experience.

A positive school climate is the product of a school's attention to fostering safety; promoting a supportive academic, disciplinary, and physical environment; and encouraging and maintaining respectful, trusting, and caring relationships throughout the school community no matter the setting—from Pre-K/Elementary School to higher education.

-National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments



What is School Connectedness?

School connectedness is a feeling that students, staff, and parents belong, are cared for, and are accepted by others in the school environment [CDC, APA].

It is about relationships



Why Does it Matter?

A positive school climate and high connectedness have a profound impact:



School Climate & Connectedness Survey

History and Overview

AASB developed the survey partnership with American Institutes for Research (AIR) & AK school districts.

- **Survey Package:** Student (3-5 & 6-12), Staff & Family Survey
- **Results:** Online interactive survey platform (Panorama Education)
- **Support:** Technical assistance before, during, and after survey administration
- **Continuous Quality Improvement:** Gather feedback from districts/schools and look at current research from the field.



Student Grade 3-5 Survey Topics

Grade 3-5
Caring for Others
School Safety
Social and Emotional Learning

Student Grade 6-12 Survey Topics



Grades 6-12	
School Safety and Peer Climate	High Expectations
Connectedness/Belonging	Caring Adults
Student Involvement	Respectful Climate
Social and Emotional Learning	Cultural Connectedness
Family and Community Involvement	

Staff Survey Topics



Staff	
Staff to Student Relationships	District Leadership
Staff to Staff Relationships	Cultural Connectedness
Student Involvement	Trauma Engaged Schools
School Capacity - Family/School Partnership	Staff Capacity - Family/School Partnership
School Leadership and Involvement	

Family Survey Topics



Family
Cultural Connectedness
School Safety
Student Support at Home
School/Family Partnership



Survey Updates 2025

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.

Why?

Responding to feedback — We received feedback from districts, school staff, students, and families that the surveys were too long. To shorten the survey, we worked with districts to identify and prioritize the key topics that schools were most concerned about and those that are most linked to student outcomes like attendance, academic success, and engagement.

Survey Validity — We worked with American Institutes for Research (AIR) to analyze how survey items were performing and made changes to make the survey tool more aligned with best practices.

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.



Grade 3-5 Safety Scale



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.

- **I feel safe at school**
- **I feel safe in the hallways and bathrooms of the school**
- **I feel safe in my classroom**
- **I feel safe at recess**
- **Most students at this school get along with each other**
- **Students at my school are often teased, picked on, made fun of, or called names**



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.

Resources will be available to help support you in using your 2025 data.



Platform Navigation



Accessing Your District/School Results

- **Login to your Panorama account:**
secure.panoramaed.com
- **Use your district's public link:** If you need access to your public link, reach out to sccs@aasb.org

The screenshot shows the Panorama Education login interface. At the top is the Panorama Education logo, which consists of a green square icon with a white geometric design, followed by the text "PANORAMA" in bold and "EDUCATION" below it. Below the logo is the text "Welcome to Panorama". There are two input fields: "Email" and "Password". To the right of the "Password" field is a link that says "Forgot password?". Below the input fields is a large blue button labeled "Sign in". At the bottom is a button with the Google logo and the text "Sign in with Google".

2025 Participation

31 School Districts

- **37,526** Students
 - **13,042** Grade 3-5
 - **24,585** Grade 6-12
- **6,278** Staff
- **12,642** Family



How are results scored?

QUESTION



There is at least one adult at this school whom I feel comfortable talking to about things that are bothering me.

78% ⁱ

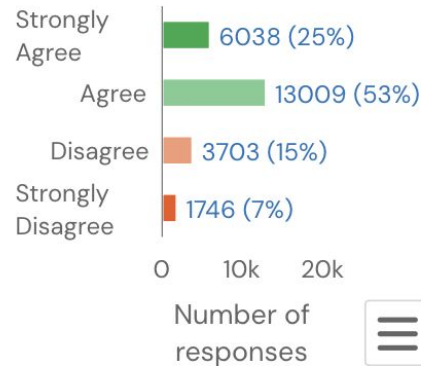
responded
favorably



Results are scored in “Percent Favorable”

When a question is scored as "78% favorable," this means that 78% of respondents selected a **favorable answer choice**. Most often, the top two answer choices are favorable for a question with four answer choices, and the top one answer choice is favorable for a question with three answer choices.

Answer distribution



What does the scoring mean on “negatively” scored items?



QUESTION



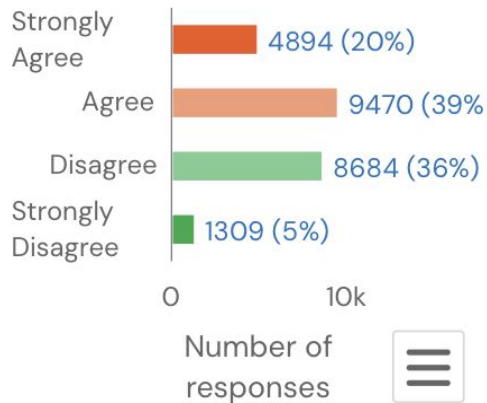
Students at this school are often teased or picked on.

41% 

responded
favorably



Answer distribution



A "high" score = students feel more favorable about a specific topic

A "low" score = they don't feel as positively about it



2024 Grade 6–12 Student Survey

What feedback did students have for their school?

Survey Context

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).

[Show More](#)

2024 Grade 6–12 Student Survey

12,221 responses | [show breakdown](#)

Save as PDF

Topic	Percent Favorable ⓘ	Compared to ⓘ High School ⌵	Change since 2023 School Climate & Connectedness Survey ⓘ	
Student Risk Behaviors: Drug and Alcohol Use ⓘ	84%	+8	▲ 1	
Student Risk Behaviors: Delinquent Behaviors ⓘ	78%	−5	▼ 1	
Social and Emotional Learning (Grades 6–12) ⓘ	71%	−1	▲ 1	
High Expectations ⓘ	69%	0	▼ 3	



2025 Grade 6–12 Student Survey

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[Show More](#)

Grade 6–12 Student Survey

13,649 responses | [show breakdown](#)

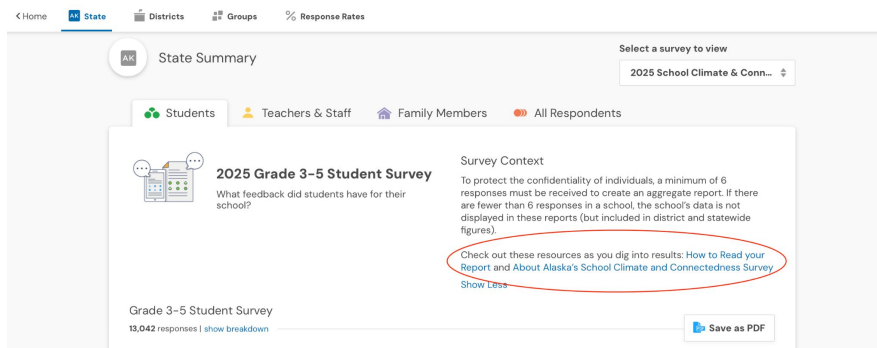
Save as PDF

Topic	Percent Favorable ⓘ	Compared to ⓘ High School ⌵	
Family and Community Involvement ⓘ	85%	0	
High Expectations ⓘ	85%	0	
Cultural Connectedness ⓘ	81%	−1	
Caring Adults ⓘ	77%	−2	
Respectful Climate ⓘ	76%	−2	



Why doesn't my school have results?

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).



[See guides in the reports](#) for more explanation about how responses are counted for SCCS.



Platform Walkthrough



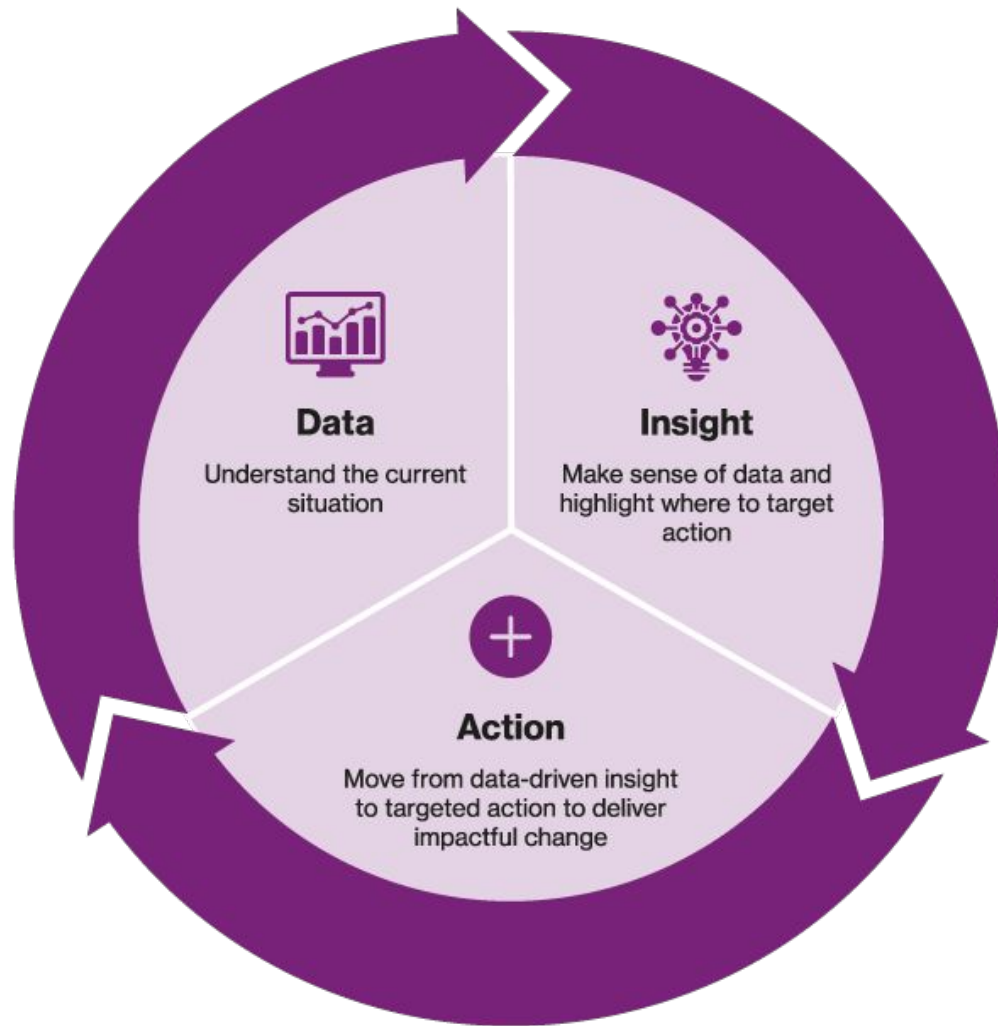
You are welcome to watch as we walk through the demo or click through in the same sequence in the Alaska Public Link.

Statewide Public Link:

https://secure.panoramaed.com/aasb/understand?auth_token=6ZQgcW8-GbygPKde99fz



Making Meaning From Your Data





Adding Context To Your Data

- Compare to other districts/ schools
- Compare topics within a survey to each other
- Compare topics across surveys (students vs staff vs families)
- Compare questions within a topic
- Compare results for different groups (grade bands, demographics, schools)
- Bring in stakeholders to discuss and dig in together. Students, staff, families, community members.



Resources and Support

Follow-up Support from AASB

Included with survey participation

[Request Form](#)

- Data Consultation
- Data Exploration Workshops
 - Staff Workshops & In-Services
 - Student workshops
 - Family & Community workshops
 - School Board Work Sessions



Web-based Resources

We are working on developing tools and templates for utilizing your data. Resources will be available on the [SCCS](#) webpage.

- Tip sheets
- Video modules
- Data Inquiry & Action Planning Guide
- Data protocols for specific areas of focus including Family Engagement and Trauma Engaged Schools.



QUESTIONS?

Contact the SCCS Team

sccs@aasb.org