The California School Climate, Health, and Learning Surveys

A Tool to Assess School Climate, Campus Safety, and Pupil Engagement
Did you know?

Among our 1.9 million high school students:

- One-third report being bullied or harassed at school
- Forty percent do not feel safe at school
- Twenty-four percent experienced cyber bullying
- Nine percent report carrying a gun or weapon to school at least once
- Eighteen percent of ninth graders are afraid of being beaten up (23 percent)
Did you know? (Cont.)

• One-third **cannot** report at least one **caring adult** at school
• One-third report **no** teacher or adult at school believes that they will be a success (low expectation)
• One-half do not feel being **part of their school**
• One-third report **chronic sadness**
Cal-SCHLS

- The California Department of Education (CDE) owns a data collection system that provides data for school improvements in multiple levels.

- Three linked school-based kindergarten through grade 12 (K–12) assessment tools:
  - California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS, 1999)
  - California School Climate Survey of staff (CSCS, 2004)
  - California School Parent Survey (CSPS, 2011)
Cal-SCHLS

- Developed to fulfill federal Safe and Drug Free Schools (Title IV) Program requirements.
- Now voluntary with the defunding of Title IV (except for districts that receive grants under the CDE’s Tobacco-Use and Prevention Education [TUPE]).
- Transformed into a tool focused on assessing school climate and providing data to guide school improvement.
Cal-SCHLS

- Comparable across schools and districts and support County and State Planning
- Can be customized
- Students: grades five, seven, nine, and eleven
- Staff/Parents: all grades
- Both print and online versions
- District receives district-level report, administration and data use guides, and support materials
Survey Participation

• Under Title IV (2003–2010)
  o 850+ districts, 7000+ schools, 1M students, 100K staff
• Declined one-third 2011–13 (largely elementary)
• In 2013–14 rebounded by 18 percent
  o Mostly due to LCAP
  o Administered by 450 districts among 414,177 students
• Anticipate the need to address all state priorities in the LCAP will increase use of the survey to pre-2011 levels
Low Cost

- A thirty cent fee per enrolled student per grade covers both CHKS and CSCS
  - Half of districts <$130
  - Next 20 percent, $150−$350
  - Largest 10 percent, $1,000 (based on 900 per grade sampling plan)
- School-level reports: $50
- School Climate Report Cards: $100
Secondary School Climate Report Card

School Climate Index (SCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Climate Index</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>State Percentile</th>
<th>Similar Schools Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>317</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Climate Characteristics as State Percentiles - Student Reports/Incident Data

- **SCHOOL CLIMATE INDEX (SCI)**: 63
- **SCHOOL CLIMATE SUBSCALE RESULTS**:
  - Supports and Engagement: 67
    - High expectations and caring relationships: 63
    - Opportunities for meaningful participation: 63
    - Perceived school safety: 70
    - School connectedness: 67
  - Low Violence, Victimization, & Substance Use: 63
    - Low physical violence perpetration: 65
    - Low physical and emotional violence victimization: 56
    - Low harassment and bullying: 54
    - Low substance use at school: 66
  - Low Truancy Incidents: 28

*California Safe and Supportive Schools Project*
School Variables Assessed

- School connectedness, learning engagement, and student performance
- Academic rigor
- Academic mindset (motivation, perseverance)
- Relationships between and among students/staff
- Perceived safety, discipline, and order
- Violence and victimization (bullying)
- Substance use and availability at school
- Respect for diversity and equity
- Physical environment
- Parent involvement
- Supports, services, and policies to address needs of students and staff
California Healthy Kids Survey Secondary Supplementary Modules

- School Climate
- Resilience and Youth Development
- Social-Emotional Health and Learning
- Alcohol and other Drugs Use and Tobacco Use
- Safety/Violence
- Physical Health
- Sexual Behavior
- Afterschool Module
- Gang Risk Awareness
- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender School Experiences
- Military Connected Schools
Data Availability (California Healthy Kids Survey/California School Climate Survey)

- **District, county, and state-level** data reports posted on websites
- **School** reports (when requested) through districts
- **Online** through Query CHKS, a partnership with kidsdata.org
  - District, county, and state level
  - Selected cross-tabs
  - Data graphing
- **Datasets** on request (low preparation fee)
- **Custom** reports
Value of Data

• Demonstrate need for and obtain funding
• Guide programmatic action planning
• Used by multiple stakeholders in education, public health, mental health, social services, and research etc.
• Foster school-community collaboration
• Evaluation and Accountability
  o Do schools that receive program funding have better outcomes than schools without?
• Determine student groups in greatest needs:
  o E.g., Race/ethnicity, gender, socio economic status, homeless, foster youth, military-connected
Supporting School Success

• Assesses how supportive school climate is at fostering learning engagement needed for school success

• CHKS Core and supplements measure “non-cognitive” skills required of students and assess:
  o Persistence (grit)
  o Collaboration and cooperation
  o Problem solving
  o Academic mindset
Local Control and Accountability Plan

- Single most valuable tool for developing, guiding, and monitoring an effective LCAP
- Data to validate multiple state priorities
  - School climate
  - Pupil engagement
  - Parent involvement
  - Academic achievement (overarching)
  - SBE-adopted standards
- Compare outcomes with similar schools
- Add questions to assess local priorities
- Assess achievement, other needs, among subgroups (e.g., ethnicity, foster, homeless)
# California Safe and Supportive Schools Project
## Secondary School Climate Report Card

## School Climate Characteristics as State Percentiles - Student Reports/Incident Data
### School Climate Subscale Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Climate Characteristic</th>
<th>State Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supports and Engagement</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High expectations and caring relationships</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for meaningful participation</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived school safety</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School connectedness</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low Violence, Victimization, &amp; Substance Use</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low physical violence perpetration</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low physical and emotional violence victimization</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low harassment and bullying</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low substance use at school</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Truancy Incidents</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| School Climate Index | Score: 317 | State Percentile: 63 | Similar Schools Percentile: 86 |