



2023-2024

Middle School Student Survey Questions
Grants Pass School District

YouthTruth 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 – Middle School

The middle school student survey asks questions about students' overall school experience and takes on average about 15 minutes to complete (additional topic modules add about 5 minutes each in survey length and are limited to 2). Administrators receive comprehensive reports, along with indexed qualitative comments.

Demographics

- What grade are you in? *(5th; 6th; 7th; 8th; Other)*
- How do you describe yourself? (Please check one.) *(Boy/Man; Girl/Woman; 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 Latina/o/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? (If your school does not grade on a scale using As, Bs, Cs, Ds and Fs, please choose the answer that you think best matches the grades you get at your school.) *(Mostly As; Mostly Bs; Mostly Cs; Mostly Ds or below; I 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 don't know; 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 don't know; Prefer not to say)*
- We will ask you about the main caregiver(s) in your home. These include parents, guardians, grandparents, etc. Think about your most educated caregiver. What is their level of education? *(Elementary or middle school; Some high school; High school graduate or equivalent (GED); Some college; Associate's degree or technical certificate; Finished college/bachelor's degree; Graduate degree; I don't know; Prefer not to say)*

Strengths & Areas for Improvement

- What do you **like** most about your school? (Please check one.) *(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? (Please check one.) (*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 high school; Something else not listed; Nothing – I can't think of anything I dislike about my school*)

Students are invited to expand upon their answers to the above two questions in their own words via open text.

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*)

Open-ended comments to the above three questions are anonymously shared in an indexed table, categorized by theme and grade-level.

Engagement – Describes the degree to which students perceive themselves as engaged with their school and their education.

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.

Think about your time at school. (*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 (For example, which skills to improve).
- My teachers' expectations make me want to do my best.
- I try to do my best in school.

Academic Challenge – Describes the degree to which students feel they are challenged by their coursework and teachers.

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 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.
- 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.
- I feel like I will be ready for high school classes when I finish middle school.

Do you want to go to college one day? *(Yes; No; I don't know)*

Culture – Describes the degree to which students believe that their school fosters a culture of respect and fairness.

Are you part of clubs, teams, or other groups (for example, 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 at my school treat students with respect.
- Students from my school treat adults with respect.
- Adults at my school respect people from backgrounds (for example, people of different races, ethnicities, and genders).
- I feel safe during school.

Obstacles to Learning – Describes the degree to which students experience barriers to their learning.

Do any of the following make it hard for you to do your best in school? *(Yes, this makes it hard to do my best; No, this does not apply to me or does not keep me from doing my best; I don't know)*

- 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 to help me with my schoolwork
- Getting picked on or bullied
- My personal relationships

- Other (please specify)

Belonging & Peer Collaboration – Describes the degree to which students feel welcome at their school and have collaborative relationships with their classmates.

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 = 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?

Relationships – Describes the degree to which students feel they receive support and personal attention from their teachers.

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; I don't know*)

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*)

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

In the past year, have other students bullied or harassed you? (*Yes; No; I don't know; Prefer not to say*)

Were you bullied . . . (*Yes; No; I don't know*)

- . . . **physically**? (For example, pushed, tripped, or hit you; taken or broken your belongings on purpose)
- . . . **verbally**? (For example, called you names or made fun of you; threatened you; made inappropriate comments to you)
- . . . **socially**? (For example, tried to get other students not to be friends with you; spread rumors or told secrets about you; embarrassed you in front of others)

- . . . through **cyberbullying**? (For example, mean text messages or emails; rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites; pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles)
- Other (please specify)

(If respondent answered yes to the bullying question) 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 for any of the following reasons: *(Yes; No; I don't know; Prefer not to say)*

- Your sex or gender
- Your race or skin color
- Where your family is from
- How you look
- Your religion
- Because people assume your sexual orientation
- How much money your family has
- A disability that you have
- Other reasons (please specify)

(If respondent answered yes to the bullying question) When you were bullied did you tell . . . *(Yes; No; I don't know)*

- . . . an adult from school?
- . . . an adult at home?
- . . . a friend or classmate?
- I did not tell anyone.
- Someone else (please specify)

Civic Readiness – Describes the degree to which students feel prepared to actively participate in civic life and contribute to their communities and society as a whole.

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)*

- Helping others is important to me.
- In school I have learned how to make my school, my community, or the world a better place.
- It is important to vote.
- I can make a difference in my school, my community, or the world.
- I work with others to solve problems in my school or community.
- I have helped change things for the better in my school, my community, or the world.

(If respondent answered disagree or strongly disagree to "I have helped change things for the better in my school, my community, or the world") What has kept you from helping to change things for the better in your school, your community, or the world? (Did you want to get involved? What happened? What challenges did you face?) *(Open text)*

(If respondent answered neither agree or disagree, agree, or strongly agree to "I have helped change things for the better in my school, my community, or the world") Think about a time when you helped to

change things for the better in your school, your community, or the world. (What made you want to get involved? What did you do? What challenges did you face?) (*Open text*)

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:

- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
- Sexual assault hotline: Call 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
- Domestic violence hotline: Call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

If you'd like to talk to someone at your school, please reach out to your teacher, guidance counselor, or principal.

Emotional and Mental Health – Describes signs of depression, as well as students' consideration of suicide. Themes include students' approaches to coping and ability to find help at school.

In the last twelve months, have you . . . (*Yes; No; I 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 almost every day for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities?
- . . . seriously considered attempting suicide?

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

- . . . I know someone outside of school who I can talk to about it.
- . . . my school has programs or services that can help me.
- . . . 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*)

School Safety – Describes students’ level of perceived safety while on campus, in the community, and at home. Themes include drivers of conflict at school and responses to bullying and harassment.

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*) I feel safe from harm . . .

- . . . during my classes.
- . . . in the hallways, bathrooms, and locker rooms at my school.
- . . . on school property outside my school building.
- . . . going to and from school (for example, on the school bus/public transportation, walking to and from school).
- . . . in the neighborhood I live in.
- . . . in my home.

During school, how often do the following happen? (1 = *Never or almost never*; 2 = *Somewhat rarely*; 3 = *Sometimes*; 4 = *Somewhat often*; 5 = *Always or almost always*)

- Students go out of their way to treat other students badly.
- There is conflict based on race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or disabilities.
- Students get into physical fights.
- I must be ready to fight to defend myself.

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 my school, there are clear rules against hurting other people (for example, hitting, pushing, or tripping).
- Adults at my school try to stop bullying/harassment.
- I usually try to help other students who are being bullied/harassed.