

YouthTruth

— STUDENT SURVEY —

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

2023-2024

Family Survey Questions

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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Family Survey Questions

The Family Survey includes questions that gather parents' and guardians' feedback about their child's school 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). Overall strengths and areas for improvement, recommend rate, and indexed qualitative comments are also included.

General

What do you like most about this school? *(Friendly and supportive teachers and staff; Strong academic programs; Support services and programs for parents and families; Strong extracurricular programs; Great supplies and/or facilities; Nothing; Other)*

What is one area in which this school could improve? *(Teachers and staff could do more to be friendly and supportive; Stronger academic programs; More/better support services and programs for families; Stronger extracurricular programs; Better supplies and/or facilities; Nothing; Other)*

Parents/guardians are invited to provide details in their own words regarding their answers to the above two questions.

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.

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 child is getting a high-quality education at this school.
- I would recommend this school to parents seeking a school for their child.

Culture – Describes the degree to which families believe their school fosters shared goals, respect, fairness, and diversity.

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 am proud of my school.
- Discipline in this school is fair.
- My school runs smoothly.
- My school respects people from different backgrounds (for example, people of different races, ethnicities, and genders).
- I feel valued by my school.
- My school creates a friendly environment.
- My school's policies are administered fairly and consistently.
- I believe in my school's mission.

Engagement – Describes the degree to which families are engaged in their school and empowered to influence decision-making.

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*)

- Parent/family members are included in planning school activities.
- I feel engaged with my school.
- I feel represented by parent/family groups (for example, Parent-Teacher Association, School Site Councils, Advisory Councils, etc.) at my school.
- I feel empowered to play a meaningful role in decision-making at my school.
- I feel informed about important decisions regarding my school.

Relationships – Describes the degree to which families experience positive relationships in their school based on respect, care, and approachability.

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*)

- Teachers treat families with respect.
- Families and teachers care about each other.
- Teachers and students care about each other.
- I feel comfortable approaching the school administration about my concerns.
- School administrators treat families with respect.
- I feel comfortable approaching teachers about my child's progress.

Communication & Feedback – Describes the degree to which there are open and effective lines of communication between families and schools.

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 receive information about what my child should learn and be able to do.
- I receive regular feedback about my child's progress.
- Teachers clearly communicate expectations for my child's progress.

School Safety – Describes the degree to which families believe that their school is a safe place for students.

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 child is safe from bullying during school.
- My child's learning environment is safe.
- My child is safe from violence at school.

Resources – Describes the degree to which families believe that their school deploys the necessary resources to support students.

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 school sets high expectations for students.
- My school provides the guidance necessary to help my child succeed.
- My school has the resources necessary to achieve learning goals.
- My school has the resources necessary to prepare my child for the future.

Demographics

- How many children do you have attending this school? (Just to remind you: if you have multiple children at this school, you may complete the survey again so you have the opportunity to respond about each child that attends the school.) (1 ;2; 3; 4 or more)
- Which grade is your child in? (Preschool; TK; Pre-K Kindergarten; 1st; 2nd; 3rd; 4th; 5th; 6th; 7th; 8th; 9th; 10th; 11th; 12th; 13th; Other [please specify])
- What is your relationship with your child? (Parent; Guardian; Other [please specify])
- *Gender identity:
 - Option 1 (recommended): How do you describe yourself? (Please check one.) (Man; Woman; Non-binary or gender non-conforming; Prefer to self-describe/identify [optional, please describe]; Prefer not to say)
 - Option 2: How do you describe yourself? (Please check one (Man; 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)
- Does your child have an IEP (individualized education program or plan), receive special education services, or receive 504 services? (Yes; No; I don't know; Prefer not to say)
- What is the primary language spoken in your home? (Chinese; English; Korean; Spanish; Tagalog; Russian; Vietnamese; Other [please specify])
- What is the highest level of education that you have completed? (Elementary or middle school; Some high school; High school or equivalent [GED], Some college; Associate degree or technical certificate; Bachelor's degree; Graduate degree; I don't know; Prefer not to say)
- **At school, is your child able to receive lunch for free or at a lower price? (Yes; No; I don't know; Prefer not to say)
- ***Do you consider yourself to be: (Please check one) (Bisexual*; Gay or Lesbian, Heterosexual or straight; Another identity not included above [optional, please describe]; I don't know; Prefer not to say) *A person who is attracted to both people of their own gender and other genders.
- ***Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community? (Please check one) (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)
- ***Are you transgender? (Please check one) (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)

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**Clients choose their preferred gender survey question version prior to surveying.*

***Districts or networks with fully implemented free lunch programs are invited to exclude this question.*

****Clients choose whether to include or exclude these optional demographic survey questions.*

Family Survey Additional Topic

The following additional topic module can be added to customize the core Family Survey. The optional module adds about 5 minutes in survey length.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Assesses parents’ and guardians’ school experiences through the lens of value, representation, and social justice.

My school puts practices in place that include families of diverse backgrounds in community conversations (for example, state of the school, town hall, listening sessions, etc.). *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

Think about your school. How often do you see people of diverse backgrounds . . . *(1 = Very rarely; 2 = Somewhat Rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Somewhat often; 5 = Very often)*

- . . . in artworks, posters, or pictures?
- . . . in publications (for example, newsletter, newspapers, yearbooks, etc.)?
- . . . in materials sent by the school?
- . . . during school events (for example, virtual school activities, school fairs, sporting events, etc.)?

Adults at my school value people of different . . . *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- . . . religions, faiths, or spiritual beliefs.
- . . . sexual orientations (for example, gay, straight, bisexual, etc.).
- . . . abilities (for example, people with disabilities).
- . . . genders.
- . . . incomes (for example, how much money someone makes.).
- . . . races and/or ethnicities.
- . . . countries.

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 school provides resources in the language(s) my family needs.
- My school encourages families to speak out against racism.
- My school clearly communicates how to report acts of discrimination.