

Sandridge Elementary SD172

School Environment Matters: Sandridge Elementary SD172 Administers Eleventh Illinois 5Essentials Survey to Improve Student Learning

Sandridge Elementary SD172 will join the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE) in the eleventh statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions. The survey provides a unique opportunity for students, teachers and parents to have a voice in improving their schools. Students and teachers will be invited to participate in a 30-minute research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's learning environment. The parent survey supplement will also be administered during the same survey window. These surveys will serve as an opportunity for schools to reflect on progress since the last statewide implementation.

We encourage all of our teachers, parents, and students to complete this important survey by March 28, 2025

[The Illinois 5Essentials Survey](#) provides a comprehensive picture of a school's organizational culture in an individualized report measuring five "essentials" critical for school success:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environment
- Ambitious Instruction

Thirty years of research at the University of Chicago in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of the 5Essentials were 10 times more likely to make substantial gains in improving student reading and math than schools that were weak on three or more of the Essentials. Those differences remained true even after controlling for student and school characteristics, including poverty, race, gender, and neighborhood characteristics. Strength on components within the Essentials also correlated with increased teacher retention, student attendance, college enrollment, and high school graduation.

Generated from a rigorous analysis of student and teacher survey responses, 5Essentials Reports demonstrate that what students and teachers say about their schools can serve as important indicators for school success. In the inaugural 2012-2013 statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey, 87 percent of all schools in the state met the 50-percent participation threshold to receive a 5Essentials Report, with participation from more than 70 percent of all teachers and eligible 6th through 12th graders across Illinois. Starting in 2018-19, fourth and fifth grade students were also included in the 5Essentials survey administration.

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All district schools, including alternative schools that fall under the district's domain, are required to participate in a school learning conditions survey every year. The survey was deemed a key component to balanced accountability under the state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan by stakeholders, which resulted in state legislative changes requiring the survey annually.

Sandridge Elementary SD172 has consistently participated in the statewide 5Essentials Survey and is opting to administer the survey to teachers and students again this year to continue tracking and informing progress.

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, [UChicago Impact](#) is providing Illinois 5Essentials to schools statewide. Teachers, students, and parents may complete the Illinois 5Essentials Survey online. For more information visit: www.5-essentials.org/illinois.

More information will be shared with teachers, parents, and students very soon. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Kosina via email at jkosina@sandridgesd172.net or by phone at 219-257-2102.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Kosina

Joseph Kosina
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Grants