

# FAQs: Georgia's New Surveys and Application

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## New Survey Application on GaDOE Portal

### How does someone get access to the new application?

To get access to the School Climate Survey application, portal users need to have one of the following organization roles as deemed appropriate by the district security officer. These roles could be assigned before or after the application "go live" date which is 11/18/24.

1. **School Climate Survey Admin (District-Level)** – This user may view survey links, view participation rates and manage issues reported in their district and all schools within the district. Additionally, this user can access survey data for all schools in their district.
2. **School Climate Survey Viewer (District-Level)** - This user may view survey links, view participation rates and manage issues reported in their district and all schools within the district.
3. **School Climate Survey Admin (School-Level)** - This user may view survey links, view participation rates and manage issues reported in their school. Additionally, this user can access survey data for their school.
4. **School Climate Survey Viewer (School-Level)** - This user may view survey links, view participation rates and manage issues reported in their school.

As a one-time task, the GaDOE Technology services team will provision specific roles for four (4) portal users on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> (prior to the "go live" date of Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>). This will only include the following users and roles:

1. Superintendent - **School Climate Survey Admin (District-Level)**
2. Charter School Superintendent - **School Climate Survey Admin (District-Level)**
3. Technology Coordinator - **School Climate Survey Viewer (District-Level)**
4. Principal - **School Climate Survey Admin (School-Level)**

\*Security officers should take care when deciding who has access to download the data (admin role).

### I clicked on the school survey link on the website and got this error - "incorrect URL". What should I do?

Please contact your School Administrator to receive the correct URL.

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## Why not automatically provision anyone to the new survey application who had access to the traditional survey data (e.g., GSHS)?

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District superintendents and security officers make decisions regarding other access (i.e., technology coordinators getting admin instead of viewer access, or other roles within the district gaining access) because those decisions vary widely across the state and may not necessarily mirror the decisions that were made in the past several years.

## When will the data be available?

The data will be first available around the middle of May. We plan to improve data generation time each year with the goal of eventually having data available shortly after the survey window closes (end of March).

## Can the QR code be generated/downloaded as just the QR code image to more easily embed in newsletters?

We include the survey type and link along with the QR codes to avoid mixing up QR codes. Schools may snip or screenshot and separate the QR codes from the information if desired.

## Will a User Guide and the sample parent letters be in the portal under the Survey Information tab?

Yes, when users log in to the portal and access the school climate survey application, the first tab will include:

- Important dates
- Survey Guidance Document (with links to all survey questions)
- FAQ
- Sample Parent Opt-out and Notification Letters
- The application user guide

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## How will the unique URLs for schools be helpful for parents?

We learned through the survey pilot process that having one link for all schools and districts in the state caused issues with data integrity. Parents would sometimes complete surveys for schools they did not have students attending. In some cases, we would have schools report that they had yet to send the survey link to their parents, but data was coming in for their school. We would have to delete the submissions for the school until they began administration which resulted in loss of data (deletions). Individual links for each school will make it more likely that families will complete the correct surveys.

## Will there be a downloadable excel for district users for tracking status?

Yes, but the data will reflect the participation rates from the previous day due to the large data sets that need 24 hours to process and store.

## Will there be a downloadable excel for district users that has survey URL links for all schools within the district?

Due to the large file size, this will not be an option for individual users. A district user may submit a request through the Issue Tracker within the survey application.

## How many survey links could a single school have?

Most schools will have 4 survey links (family, student, teacher, and staff). There are cases where schools have as few as 3 links but there will be no more than 6 links for any given school. For example, a school that serves grades 5-9 would have an elementary (5<sup>th</sup>), middle (6-8), and high school (9<sup>th</sup>) link. The links would include:

1. Family survey
2. Teacher survey
3. Staff survey
4. Elementary survey
5. Middle school survey
6. High school survey

An example of a school with 3 survey links might be one that serves grades PK-2. In this case, they would have:

1. Family survey
2. Teachers survey
3. Staff survey

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## New Surveys (family, student, teacher, staff)

### Do my answers impact our school's CCRPI score?

No. Survey data has never contributed to CCRPI scores. The data does count toward the School Climate Star Rating.

### What is the purpose of these surveys?

To understand student, family, teacher, and staff perceptions of a school's climate and promote academically supportive, healthy and safe school environments in Georgia. The data will be used by educational leaders to improve schools. The data will also contribute to the calculation of the School Climate Star Rating.

### Are these surveys anonymous?

Teacher, staff, and family surveys are anonymous. Student data is kept confidential by removing all identifiable (demographic) information in individual data reports. Student demographic data is important for data analysis but will remain in aggregate format to maintain individual student confidentiality.

For open-ended responses, please be careful not to type names or information you don't want to share with the school.

### Should respondents give honest answers even if the answers are not all positive?

Yes. Leaders want honest answers that will help them know where improvements can be made. Inaccurate responses could lead to ineffective improvement efforts and wasted resources.

### For School Climate what will the minimum participation rate be?

Detailed information on participation requirements for schools is included in the [survey guidance document](#).

### How will the user know that they have completed the survey?

Each page has a "next" button at the bottom until the last page which has a "complete survey" button. Once the user clicks "complete survey," a new page appears with a message, "Thank you for sharing your thoughts and helping to improve your school."

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## Who should take the teacher survey?

Anyone reported by the school through the Certified/Classified Personnel Information (CPI) data collection as “classroom teachers.”

## Who should take the staff survey?

Anyone reported by the school through the CPI data collection as “support personnel.”

## Is there a survey for administrators to take?

Currently, there are no school climate surveys for building administrators to take. The surveys are meant to support administrators with school improvement efforts by providing them feedback about their school's climate.

## What if a person works at more than one school?

A person is invited to complete one survey for each school they work at during the year.

## What if a parent has more than one student in a school or students across multiple schools?

Parents/guardians are invited to complete one family survey for each school they have 1 or more children attending (1 survey per school).

## Who is required to take the survey?

No one is required to take the survey. Although schools are required to reach minimum participation requirements, individual participation is voluntary. Participation can be encouraged, and people can be asked if they took the survey, but they should not be asked for proof of participation.

## How many languages are available? What if we need a language other than English or Spanish?

The student and family surveys have been and continue to be available in English and Spanish only. Districts may, independently, translate into other languages.

## Are the MS and HS Student Surveys the same?

No. There are slight differences in the two surveys. These [survey questions](#) are:

- #35 MS – question includes “fine arts, music, and other exploratory classes” for middle school

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- #35 HS – question includes “CTAE, dual enrollment, AP/IB, and electives” for high school
- #51 HS – response options include “I had to go to work.”
- Additional Information Section – response options include “dual enrollment.”

## What is to keep someone from submitting multiple surveys?

To maintain confidentiality of survey participants' answers, we cannot track who is submitting. Therefore, there is nothing to stop someone from submitting multiple surveys. Survey results may be invalidated if there is an indication that multiple submissions are being made by a single person to influence school climate data.

## Is there a document of survey questions for each survey that can be made available to parents for review?

Yes. There is a link to every set of survey questions in the [survey guidance document](#).

## Why is the secondary student survey (grades 6-12) so lengthy?

Total survey questions for secondary students have been reduced from 121 (in FY18), to 81 (in FY24), and now to 73 (in FY25). Nineteen (19) Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) questions are included in the new survey. Additionally, every student question is optional and may be skipped if students do not feel comfortable answering, if they do not understand a question, or if the question does not apply to them.