



# Illinois State Board of Education

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## Survey of Learning Conditions 2013 Student Survey

This year, Illinois launched a Survey of Learning Conditions, the first ever statewide survey of all teachers and sixth through 12th grade students that solicited feedback on various characteristics of the school environment. The 5Essentials Survey, developed to measure school climate in five key areas, was used to conduct a research-based analysis of the learning conditions at each school. More than twenty years of research in Chicago Public Schools has shown that schools strong on a majority of the Essentials were significantly more likely to improve student and school outcomes.

After consulting with Illinois educators, the State Board has decided not to publicly release the scored 5Essentials Reports for individual schools in 2013 for three reasons:

- First, ISBE has decided to use this year to allow educators and school leaders to familiarize themselves with the tool, survey and items. This will allow school leaders to better understand how to use the tool for future school improvement.
- Second, ISBE wants to explore the relationship between survey results and school outcomes statewide.
- Third, ISBE and the 5Essentials Survey researchers will review all survey items for their applicability statewide prior to the next administration of the survey in spring 2014.

The aim of conducting the Survey of Learning Conditions is to provide educators and administrators with data to inform best decision making for improving school climate. We are committed to continue working with schools towards this goal. Though the 5Essentials results will not be released this year, the raw survey responses themselves contain valuable information that can be useful for school and district staff and the public. We have decided to publish the survey questions and responses in this report.

Next year we will release the complete survey results, providing overall scores for learning conditions on the State School Report Card as well as detailed 5Essentials Reports for each school. I look forward to working with educators and researchers on the survey over the coming year.

Dr. Christopher A. Koch  
State Superintendent of Education

**1) How safe do you feel:**

	Not Safe	Somewhat Safe	Mostly Safe	Very Safe
1. In the hallways and bathrooms of the school.	1.6	8.0	29.5	60.9
2. Outside around the school.	2.4	12.8	39.3	45.5
3. Traveling between home and school.	1.6	12.6	35.6	50.3
4. In your classes.	1.6	4.8	18.6	75.1

**2) How much do you agree with the following statements about students in your school: Most students in my school:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Like to put others down.	34.5	38.2	23.0	4.3
2. Help each other learn.	2.4	15.5	59.6	22.5
3. Don't get along together very well.	21.3	50.4	22.7	5.6
4. Treat each other with respect.	6.4	19.7	50.7	23.2

**3) How much do you agree with the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I always study for tests.	5.0	24.4	53.3	17.2
2. I set aside time to do my homework and study.	2.9	13.6	50.3	33.2
3. I try to do well on my schoolwork even when it isn't interesting to me.	1.3	5.3	52.5	40.8
4. If I need to study, I don't go out with my friends.	5.1	27.1	43.9	23.9
5. I keep track of my long-term assignments so I know when to turn them in.	2.7	14.6	47.9	34.8
6. I manage my time well enough to get all my work done.	2.7	13.3	49.1	35.0
7. I can keep my schoolwork and personal life organized.	2.4	9.6	44.8	43.2

**4) How much do you agree with the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. When my teachers tell me not to do something, I know he/she has a good reason.	3.2	13.1	47.2	36.5
2. I feel safe and comfortable with my teachers at this school.	2.7	8.6	41.2	47.6
3. My teachers always keep his/her promises.	7.5	22.5	46.8	23.3
4. My teachers will always listen to students' ideas.	5.4	23.9	48.7	22.0
5. My teachers treat me with respect.	3.8	10.2	42.6	43.4

**5) How much do you agree with the following statements about the community in which you live:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Adults in this neighborhood know who the local children are.	7.0	25.3	55.6	12.1
2. During the day, it is safe for children to play in the local park or playground.	2.1	6.7	59.2	31.9
3. People in this neighborhood can be trusted.	3.8	14.6	59.3	22.4
4. There are adults in this neighborhood that children can look up to.	2.4	11.3	53.8	32.5
5. The equipment and buildings in the neighborhood park or playground	3.5	12.9	52.0	31.6

For questions 7-13, students were asked to consider the questions for a "TARGET" class. The target class was determined in the following manner:

English Language Arts was the target class for students born in January, May or September.

Mathematics was the target class for students born in February, June or October.

Science was the target class for students born in March, July or November.

Social Science/Social Studies/History was the target class for students born in April, August or December.

**6) What is your "TARGET" class?**

	English/ Language	Math	Science	Social Science/ Social Studies/ History
	24.5	25.6	28.2	21.6

**7) How many students in your primary ("TARGET") class:**

	None	A Few	About Half	Almost	All
1. Feel it is important to come to school every day.	0.8	2.7	13.5	53.3	29.7
2. Feel it is important to pay attention in class.	1.3	6.3	23.8	48.9	19.6
3. Think doing homework is important.	1.9	8.2	25.2	45.9	18.8
4. Try hard to get good grades.	0.5	5.6	17.0	43.6	33.2

**8) How much do you agree with the following statements about your primary ("TARGET") class:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. This class really makes me think.	2.9	11.2	49.7	36.2
2. I'm really learning a lot in this class.	2.9	10.6	40.2	46.3

**9) In my primary ("TARGET") class, my teacher:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Expects everyone to work hard.	0.5	1.6	35.3	62.6
2. Expects me to do my best all the time.	0.3	1.3	28.8	69.6
3. Wants us to become better thinkers, not just memorize things.	0.5	5.6	31.4	62.5

**10) In your primary ("TARGET") class, how often:**

	Never	Once in a While	Most of the Time	All the Time
1. Are you challenged?	4.8	34.7	45.6	14.9
2. Do you have to work hard to do well?	2.9	21.3	43.6	32.2
3. Does the teacher ask difficult questions on tests?	2.1	45.4	35.5	17.0
4. Does the teacher ask difficult questions in class?	4.0	48.4	34.8	12.8

**11) How much do you agree with the following statements about your primary ("TARGET") class:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I learn a lot from feedback on my work.	4.0	17.8	51.9	26.3
2. It's clear to me what I need to do to get a good grade.	0.8	6.1	44.7	48.4
3. The work we do in class is good preparation for the test.	0.8	9.9	46.1	43.2
4. The homework assignments help me to learn the course material.	2.7	10.7	50.4	36.3
5. I know what my teacher wants me to learn in this class.	1.1	6.6	42.4	49.9

**12) How much do you agree with the following statements about your primary ("TARGET") class:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I usually look forward to this class.	9.3	23.5	45.2	22.0
2. I work hard to do my best in this class.	1.1	4.5	48.7	45.8
3. Sometimes I get so interested in my work I don't want to stop.	16.9	34.4	31.2	17.5
4. The topics we are studying are interesting and challenging.	5.6	21.2	49.2	24.1

**13) In my primary ("TARGET") class, my teacher:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Helps me catch up if I am behind.	4.3	14.9	48.7	32.2
2. Is willing to give extra help on schoolwork if I need it.	2.7	14.4	47.3	35.6
3. Notices if I have trouble learning something.	1.9	20.7	45.4	32.1
4. Gives me specific suggestions about how I can improve my work in this class.	3.7	18.2	41.4	36.6
5. Explains things in a different way if I don't understand something in class.	3.7	12.7	41.9	41.6

**Question 14 was only asked of high school students.**

**14) How much do you agree with the following: At my high school:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Teachers make sure that all students are planning for life after graduation.				
2. Teachers work hard to make sure that all students are learning.				
3. High school is seen as preparation for the future.				
4. All students are encouraged to go to college.				
5. Teachers pay attention to all students, not just the top students.				
6. Teachers work hard to make sure that students stay in school.				

**15) In your ENGLISH class this year, how often do you do the following:**

	Never	Once or Twice a Semester	Once or Twice a Month	Once or Twice a Week	Almost Every Day
1. Debate the meaning of a reading.	16.0	13.9	20.3	30.7	19.0
2. Discuss connections between a reading and real life people or situations.	6.7	8.1	23.4	31.2	30.6
3. Discuss how culture, time, or place affects an author's writing. writing.	10.9	13.3	25.1	33.9	16.8
4. Improve a piece of writing as a class or with partners.	4.8	12.5	29.8	33.2	19.7
5. Rewrite a paper or essay in response to comments.	8.8	18.2	26.0	31.1	15.8
6. Explain how writers use tools like symbolism and metaphor to communicate meaning.	6.6	10.9	20.4	34.2	27.9

**16) In your MATH class this year, how often do you do the following:**

	Never	Once or Twice a Semester	Once or Twice a Month	Once or Twice a Week	Almost Every Day
1. Apply math to situations in life outside of school.	9.0	12.2	16.1	31.5	31.2
2. Discuss possible solutions to problems with other students.	6.4	10.3	16.7	31.6	35.0
3. Explain how you solved a problem to the class.	4.8	5.0	9.8	23.6	56.8
4. Write a few sentences to explain how you solved a math problem.	12.0	16.0	19.2	29.3	23.5
5. Write a math problem for other students to solve.	32.5	19.3	18.5	13.5	16.1
6. Solve a problem with multiple steps that takes more than 20 minutes.	27.7	17.6	17.6	21.0	16.2

**17) How much do you agree with the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Grades in high school matter for success in college.	0.3	1.1	11.9	86.8
2. My classes give me useful preparation for what I plan to do in life.	2.9	7.2	31.6	58.2
3. High school teaches me valuable skills.				
4. Working hard in high school matters for success in the work force.				
5. What we learn in class is necessary for success in the future.	2.6	6.6	29.6	61.1

**18) How much do you agree with the following statements:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Teachers at my school respect my culture.	2.1	3.5	34.7	59.7
2. Teachers at my school respect the culture of all their students.	2.7	6.9	33.9	56.5
3. Teachers at my school respect the languages spoken by students and their families.	2.7	4.6	37.2	55.5
4. Teachers at my school respect the life experiences of all their students.	5.1	4.8	36.7	53.4