



# Illinois State Board of Education

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*State Superintendent of Education*

## Survey of Learning Conditions 2013 Teacher 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) What is your current teaching position? (Please check all that apply)**

	Yes	No
1. Self-contained elementary classroom teacher	58.8	41.2
2. Subject-specific classroom teacher	11.8	88.2
3. Assistant Principal	0.0	100.0
4. Student teacher	0.0	100.0
5. Substitute teacher	0.0	100.0
6. Tutor	0.0	100.0
7. Instructional coach	9.1	90.9
8. Teacher aides	0.0	100.0
9. CCT (cooperating classroom teacher)	0.0	100.0
10. Special education teacher	16.7	83.3
11. Other (counselor, librarian, specialist, etc.)	27.3	72.7

**2) What grades do you primarily teach?**

	Pre-K - 5th	6th - 8th	9th - 12th
	100.0	0.0	0.0

**3) What subjects do you teach this year? (select all that apply):**

	Yes	No
1. English language arts (English, reading, writing)	82.4	17.6
2. Mathematics	82.4	17.6
3. Science	86.7	13.3
4. Social studies, history, government	86.7	13.3
5. World language	10.0	90.0
6. Special education	41.7	58.3
7. Art, music, drama	18.2	81.8
8. Computer science, technology	50.0	50.0
9. Physical education	20.0	80.0
10. Vocational, business	0.0	100.0

**4) Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Teachers talk about instruction in the teachers' lounge, faculty meetings, etc.	5.9	0.0	29.4	64.7
2. Teachers in this school share and discuss student work with other teachers.	5.9	0.00	52.9	41.2
3. Experienced teachers invite new teachers into their rooms to observe, give feedback, etc.	5.9	17.6	58.8	17.6
4. A conscious effort is made by faculty to make new teachers feel welcome here.	5.9	0.0	23.5	70.6

**5) This school year, how often have you had conversations with colleagues about:**

	Less Than Once a Month	2 or 3 Times per Month	1 or 2 Times per Week	Almost Daily
1. What helps students learn the best.	0.0	11.8	41.2	47.1
2. Development of new curriculum.	0.0	23.5	41.2	35.3
3. The goals of this school.	11.8	52.9	23.5	11.8
4. Managing classroom behavior.	5.9	17.6	23.5	52.9

**6) This school year, how often have you:**

	Never	Once or Twice	3-9 Times	10 or More Times
1. Observed another teacher's classroom to offer feedback.	70.6	23.5	0.0	5.9
2. Observed another teacher's classroom to get ideas for your own instruction.	52.9	41.2	0.0	5.9
3. Gone over student assessment data with other teachers to make instructional decisions.	0.0	11.8	64.7	23.5
4. Worked with other teachers to develop materials or activities for particular classes.	0.0	5.9	35.3	58.8
5. Worked on instructional strategies with other teachers.	0.0	5.9	52.9	41.2

**7) How frequently do you review assessment data (e.g. department-wide common assessments, standardized tests)?**

	Never	A Few Times a Year	Every 6-8 Weeks	Every 3-4 Weeks	Weekly
1. Independently.	0.0	37.5	25.0	18.8	18.8
2. With teachers in your grade level.	0.0	31.3	43.8	18.8	6.3
3. With teachers across grades.	18.8	56.3	12.5	12.5	0.0
4. With your principal.	0.0	62.5	31.3	6.3	0.0

**8) Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following statements about your school:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Parents are invited to visit classrooms to observe the instructional program.	6.3	62.5	31.3	0.0
2. The principal pushes teachers to communicate regularly with parents.	0.0	5.9	35.3	58.8
3. We encourage feedback from parents and the community.	0.0	6.3	56.3	37.5
4. Teachers really try to understand parents' problems and concerns.	0.0	0.0	41.2	58.8
5. Parents are greeted warmly when they call or visit the school.	0.0	0.0	41.2	58.8
6. Teachers work closely with parents to meet students' needs.	0.0	0.0	35.3	64.7
7. We work at communicating to parents about support needed to advance the school mission.	0.0	5.9	58.8	35.3
8. This school regularly communicates with parents about how they can	0.0	0.0	52.9	47.1

**9) For the students you teach this year, how many of their parents:**

	None	Some	About Half	Most	All
1. Support your teaching efforts.	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.2	11.8
2. Do their best to help their children learn.	0.0	5.9	5.9	88.2	0.0

**10) To what extent do you feel respected by the parents of your students?**

	Not at All	A Little	Some	To a Great Extent
	0.0	0.0	17.6	82.4

**11) Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Teachers and parents think of each other as partners in educating children.	0.0	0.0	64.7	35.3
2. Staff at this school work hard to build trusting relationships with parents.	0.0	0.0	35.3	64.7

**12) For the students you teach this year, how many of their parents:**

	None	Some	About Half	Most	All
1. Attended parent-teacher conferences when you requested them.	5.9	0.0	0.0	58.8	35.3
2. Volunteered to help in the classroom.	17.6	17.6	29.4	35.3	0.0
3. Picked up their child's last report card.	15.4	0.0	0.0	46.2	38.5

**13) To what extent do you feel respected by your principal?**

	Not at All	A Little	Some	To a Great Extent
	0.0	0.0	17.6	82.4

**14) Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The principal has confidence in the expertise of the teachers.	0.0	0.0	58.8	41.2
2. I trust the principal at his or her word.	0.0	17.6	64.7	17.6
3. It's OK in this school to discuss feelings, worries, and frustrations with the principal.	0.0	5.9	52.9	41.2
4. The principal takes a personal interest in the professional development of teachers.	0.0	0.0	64.7	35.3
5. The principal looks out for the personal welfare of the faculty members.	0.0	5.9	58.8	35.3
6. The principal places the needs of children ahead of personal and political interests.	0.0	5.9	70.6	23.5
7. The principal at this school is an effective manager who makes the school run smoothly.	0.0	11.8	64.7	23.5

**15) Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following: The principal at this school:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Makes clear to the staff his or her expectations for meeting instructional goals.	0.0	0.0	76.5	23.5
2. Communicates a clear vision for our school.	0.0	11.8	58.8	29.4
3. Understands how children learn.	0.0	5.9	64.7	29.4
4. Sets high standards for student learning.	0.0	0.0	58.8	41.2
5. Presses teachers to implement what they have learned in professional development.	0.0	5.9	58.8	35.3
6. Carefully tracks student academic progress.	0.0	5.9	64.7	29.4
7. Knows what's going on in my classroom.	0.0	17.6	70.6	11.8
8. Participates in instructional planning with teams of teachers.	0.0	23.5	64.7	11.8

**16) To what extent do you disagree or agree with the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Once we start a new program, we follow up to make sure that it's working.	0.0	11.8	76.5	11.8
2. We have so many different programs in this school that I can't keep track of them all.	0.0	64.7	35.3	0.0
3. Many special programs come and go at this school.	5.9	64.7	23.5	5.9
4. Curriculum, instruction, and learning materials are well coordinated across the different grade levels at this school.	5.9	35.3	52.9	5.9
5. There is consistency in curriculum, instruction, and learning materials	5.9	0.0	82.4	11.8

**17) How much influence do teachers have over school policy in each of the areas below?**

	Not at All	A Little	Some	To a Great Extent
1. Hiring new professional personnel.	5.9	29.4	58.8	5.9
2. Planning how discretionary school funds should be used.	17.6	70.6	11.8	0.0
3. Determining books and other instructional materials used in classrooms.	0.0	0.0	47.1	52.9
4. Establishing the curriculum and instructional program.	0.0	11.8	41.2	47.1
5. Determining the content of in-service programs.	5.9	17.6	64.7	11.8
6. Setting standards for student behavior.	0.0	0.0	17.6	82.4

For questions 18-27, teachers were asked to consider the questions for a "TARGET" class. The target class was determined in the following manner:

For teachers who taught the same group of students for the entire school day, that was their target class. For teachers who taught different groups of students during the school day, the second period class on Mondays was their target class. If these teachers did not have a second period class, they used their next class as their target class.

**18) What subject area is your TARGET CLASS?**

Art, Music, Drama	Computer Science, Tech	English, Reading	ESL	Math	Physical Ed	Science	Social Studies, History, Govt	Special Education	Voc, Business	World Language	Other
9.1	0.0	63.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	18.2

**19) To what extent do the following characteristics describe discussions that occur in your TARGET CLASS:**

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Almost Always
1. Students build on each other's ideas during discussion.	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7
2. Students use data and text references to support their ideas.	0.0	0.0	66.7	33.3
3. Students show each other respect.	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7
4. Students provide constructive feedback to their peers/teachers.	0.0	0.0	66.7	33.3
5. Most students participate in the discussion at some point.	0.0	0.0	25.0	75.0
6. Students draw on relevant knowledge learned outside of class.	0.0	0.0	41.7	58.3
7. Students get off the subject being discussed in class.	0.0	16.7	75.0	8.3
8. A few students dominate the conversation.	0.0	33.3	58.3	8.3
9. Students generate topics for class discussion.	0.0	8.3	75.0	16.7

**Questions 20-23 were only asked of Kindergarten-5th Grade Reading Teachers**

**20) How important are each of the following for you in judging how well students in your English/Language Arts/Reading class are learning?**

	Do Not Use	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
1. Multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank tests	0.0	0.0	35.7	50.0	14.3
2. Short answer tests	0.0	0.0	0.0	64.3	35.7
3. Essay tests	14.3	0.0	7.1	57.1	21.4
4. Student work on open-ended problems	7.1	0.0	14.3	42.9	35.7
5. Portfolio of student work	21.4	0.0	21.4	42.9	14.3
6. Group projects	7.1	0.0	21.4	50.0	21.4
7. Individual student projects	7.1	0.0	7.1	57.1	28.6
8. State standardized test results	7.1	7.1	35.7	21.4	28.6



**21) As part of teaching reading, how often do you have students:**

	Almost Everyday	Several Times a Week	About Once a Week	Less than Once a Week
1. Read in their basals.	7.1	14.3	28.6	50.0
2. Talk with one another in pairs or small groups about something they have read.	30.8	38.5	30.8	0.0
3. Write about something they read.	14.3	57.1	21.4	7.1
4. Complete reading workbooks or skill-sheet assignment.	14.3	50.0	21.4	14.3
5. Read books they choose themselves.	64.3	14.3	7.1	14.3
6. Read informational (nonfiction) material.	42.9	35.7	14.3	7.1
7. Read to one another in small groups.	28.6	50.0	14.3	7.1
8. Read aloud to the whole class.	57.1	7.1	14.3	21.4
9. Read to themselves silently.	85.7	7.1	0.0	7.1
10. Read materials that are in a paragraph or longer.	92.9	7.1	0.0	0.0

**22) How much emphasis do you give to each of the following?**

	Major Emphasis = 1	2	3	No Emphasis = 4
1. Developing an appreciation for reading and the desire to read	92.9	7.1	0.0	0.0
2. Developing students' confidence in their ability to read	92.9	7.1	0.0	0.0
3. Learning to comprehend facts and details	85.7	14.3	0.0	0.0
4. Learning to identify the main idea	92.9	7.1	0.0	0.0
5. Learning to differentiate fact from opinion	71.4	14.3	14.3	0.0
6. Learning to draw inferences	78.6	21.4	0.0	0.0

**23) About how often do you use each of the following instructional strategies in your READING class?**

	Never	Once or Twice a Semester	Once or Twice a Month	Once or Twice a Week	Almost Every Day	Not Familiar With This Practice
1. Assign projects of at least one week's duration	14.3	28.6	42.9	7.1	7.1	0.0
2. Have students explain their reasoning	0.0	0.0	7.1	7.1	85.7	0.0
3. Discuss career opportunities in your field	53.8	30.8	7.7	7.7	0.0	0.0
4. Have students complete workbooks or textbook exercises in class	0.0	0.0	7.1	57.1	35.70	0.00
5. Have students brainstorm ideas for written work	0.0	0.0	28.6	57.1	14.3	0.0
6. Have students debate ideas	7.1	42.9	35.7	14.3	0.0	0.0
7. Give demonstrations	28.6	14.3	14.3	7.1	28.6	7.1
8. Have students memorize facts or procedures	7.1	7.1	35.7	42.9	7.1	0.0
9. Have students apply concepts from earlier lessons	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	92.9	0.0
10. Have students do assignments of personal interest	7.1	21.4	57.1	14.3	0.0	0.0

**Questions 24-25 were only asked of Kindergarten-5th Grade Math Teachers**

**24) How important are each of the following for you in judging how well students are learning in your MATH class?**

	Do Not Use	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
1. Multiple choice tests	7.1	0.0	42.9	42.9	7.1
2. Short answer tests	0.0	0.0	21.4	35.7	42.9
3. Essay tests	23.1	0.0	53.8	15.4	7.7
4. Student work on open-ended problems	7.1	0.0	0.0	42.9	50.0
5. Portfolio of student work	35.7	7.1	21.4	35.7	0.0
6. Group projects	21.4	7.1	14.3	50.0	7.1
7. Individual student projects	21.4	0.0	14.3	50.0	14.3
8. Standardized test scores	7.1	0.0	35.7	28.6	28.6

**25) About how often do you use each of the following instructional strategies in MATH?**

	Never	Once or Twice a Semester	Once or Twice a Month	Once or Twice a Week	Almost Every Day	Not Familiar With This Practice
1. Assign projects of at least one week's duration	50.0	21.4	14.3	14.3	0.0	0.0
2. Have students explain their reasoning	0.0	7.1	0.0	7.1	85.7	0.0
3. Have students do experiments or observations	46.2	7.7	15.4	23.1	7.7	0.0
4. Have students develop technical or scientific writing skills	35.7	7.1	50.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
5. Relate the subject matter to students' experiences and interests	0.0	0.0	7.1	50.0	42.9	0.0
6. Have students work in cooperative groups	0.0	7.1	21.4	71.4	0.0	0.0
7. Have students complete workbooks or textbook exercises	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	85.7	0.0
8. Have students play math games	0.0	0.0	21.4	71.4	7.1	0.0
9. Have students work with objects like rulers, counting blocks, or geometric shapes	0.0	0.0	14.3	71.4	14.3	0.0
10. Have students brainstorm ideas for written work	21.4	14.3	42.9	14.3	7.1	0.0
11. Have students debate ideas	42.9	7.1	42.9	7.1	0.0	0.0
12. Have students memorize facts or procedures	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0

**Question 26 was only asked of 9th-12th Grade Teachers**

**26) Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Teachers expect most students in this school to go to college.				
2. Teachers at this school help students plan for college outside of class time.				
3. The curriculum at this school is focused on helping students get ready for college.				
4. Most of the students in this school are planning to go to college.				
5. Teachers in this school feel that it is a part of their job to prepare students to succeed in college.				

**Question 27 was only asked of Kindergarten-5th Grade Teachers**

**27) How many of the students in your TARGET CLASS:**

	None	Some	About Half	Most	Nearly All
1. Come to class on time.	5.9	0.0	0.0	23.5	70.6
2. Attend class regularly.	0.0	0.0	5.9	23.5	70.6
3. Come to class prepared with the appropriate supplies and books.	0.0	0.0	0.0	47.1	52.9
4. Regularly pay attention in class.	0.0	0.0	5.9	58.8	35.3
5. Actively participate in class activities.	0.0	0.0	5.9	58.8	35.3
6. Always turn in their homework.	0.0	0.0	0.0	62.5	37.5

**28) To what extent is each of the following a problem at your school?**

	Not at All	A Little	Some	To a Great Extent
1. Physical conflicts among students	23.5	64.7	11.8	0.0
2. Robbery or theft	52.9	47.1	0.0	0.0
3. Gang activity	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4. Disorder in classrooms	29.4	41.2	29.4	0.0
5. Disorder in hallways	25.0	43.8	31.3	0.0
6. Student disrespect of teachers	11.8	70.6	17.6	0.0
7. Threats of violence toward teachers	70.6	29.4	0.0	0.0

**29) Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Teachers in this school trust each other.	0.0	0.0	58.8	41.2
2. It's OK in this school to discuss feelings, worries, and frustrations with other teachers.	0.0	0.0	64.7	35.3
3. Teachers respect other teachers who take the lead in school improvement efforts.	0.0	0.0	58.8	41.2
4. Teachers at this school respect those colleagues who are experts at their craft.	0.0	0.0	64.7	35.3

**30) How many teachers in this school:**

	None	Some	About Half	Most	Nearly All
1. Help maintain discipline in the entire school, not just their classroom.	0.0	0.0	5.9	52.9	41.2
2. Take responsibility for improving the school.	0.0	0.0	5.9	47.1	47.1
3. Feel responsible to help each other do their best.	0.0	0.0	5.9	52.9	41.2
4. Feel responsible that all students learn.	0.0	0.0	5.9	35.3	58.8
5. Feel responsible for helping students develop self-control.	0.0	0.0	5.9	41.2	52.9
6. Feel responsible when students in this school fail.	0.0	6.3	6.3	50.0	37.5
7. Feel good about parents' support for their work.	0.0	0.0	6.3	43.8	50.0

**31) Overall, my professional development experiences this year have:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Been sustained and coherently focused, rather than short-term and unrelated.	0.0	0.0	58.8	41.2
2. Included enough time to think carefully about, try, and evaluate new ideas.	0.0	11.8	64.7	23.5
3. Been closely connected to my school's improvement plan.	0.0	0.0	52.9	47.1
4. Included opportunities to work productively with colleagues in my school.	0.0	0.0	52.9	47.1
5. Included opportunities to work productively with teachers from other schools.	12.5	37.5	37.5	12.5

**32) To what extent do you feel respected by other teachers?**

	Not at All	A Little	Some	To a Great Extent
	0.0	0.0	35.3	64.7

**33) Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I usually look forward to each working day at this school.	0.0	0.0	35.3	64.7
2. I wouldn't want to work in any other school.	0.0	0.0	47.1	52.9
3. I feel loyal to this school.	0.0	0.0	17.6	82.4
4. I would recommend this school to parents seeking a place for their child.	0.0	0.0	5.9	94.1

**34) For your students this year, how often do you encourage the following practices?**

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Almost Always
1. Community within the classroom (school connected/emotional engagement)	0.0	5.9	11.8	82.4
2. Collaboration	0.0	0.0	11.8	88.2
3. Perseverance	0.0	0.0	5.9	94.1
4. Student-led lessons	0.0	11.8	64.7	23.5

**35) To what extent do you include a strategy for re-engaging your students as part of your planning process?**

	Not at All	A Little	Some	To a Great Extent
	0.0	11.8	29.4	58.8

**36) To what extent do you disagree or agree that all school personnel work effectively and equitably with racially, culturally, linguistically and economically diverse students?**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
	5.9	0.0	23.5	70.6