



Overall School Experience High
School 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.

Overall School Experience – High School Survey

The Overall School Experience survey for high school includes questions that gather student feedback about their overall school experiences and takes approximately 17 minutes to complete. Administrators receive comprehensive reports, along with indexed qualitative comments, and a summary report.

Engagement – *Describes the degree to which students perceive themselves as engaged with their school and their education.*

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I enjoy coming to school most of the time.
- I try to do my best in school.
- My teachers' expectations make me want to do my best.
- What I learn in class helps me outside of school.
- I take pride in my school work.
- I am getting a high quality education at this school.

Have you ever seriously considered dropping out of high school? (Yes or No)

(If yes) Why did you consider dropping out? (I had fallen behind and felt like I couldn't catch up; I didn't see how the work I was doing would help me in life; I had personal problems at home; I didn't feel like anyone cared if I stayed in school; I needed to work and make money; I had problems with other students; I was discouraged by an adult; I failed state or standardized tests; I didn't feel safe at school; I didn't feel safe going to and from school; Other)

Academic Rigor – *Describes the degree to which students feel they are challenged by their coursework and teachers.*

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my classes makes me really think.
- In order to receive a good grade, I have to work hard in my classes.
- I can tell that my teachers understand the subjects that they are teaching.
- My teachers give me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- Most of my teachers don't let people give up when the work gets hard.
- Most of my teachers want us to use our thinking skills, not just memorize things.
- Most of my teachers want me to explain my answers – why I think what I think.
- In most of my classes, we learn a lot almost every day.
- In most of my classes, we learn to correct our mistakes.

Academic Rigor: Math

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my math classes makes me really think.
- In order to receive a good grade, I have to work hard in my math classes.
- I can tell that my math teachers understand the subjects that they are teaching.
- My math teachers give me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.

Academic Rigor: English

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my English classes makes me really think.
- In order to receive a good grade, I have to work hard in my English classes.
- I can tell that my English teachers understand the subjects that they are teaching.
- My English teachers give me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.

Relationships – Describes the degree to which students feel they receive support and personal attention from their teachers.

How many of your teachers... (1 = None; 5 = All)

- ...Try to be fair?
- ...Are willing to give extra help on school work if you need it?
- ...Are not just satisfied if you pass, they care if you're really learning?
- ...Believe that you can get a good grade if you try?
- ...Connect what you're learning in class with your life outside of school?
- ...Make an effort to understand what your life is like outside of school?

In your school this year, is there at least one adult... (Yes; No; Not sure)

- ...who would be willing to help you with a personal problem?
- ...you could ask to write you a recommendation for a job, program, scholarship, or college?

Belonging & Peer Collaboration – Describes the degree to which students have supportive, collaborative relationships with their classmates.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I really feel like part of my school's community.
- I can usually be myself around other students at this school.
- Most students at this school are friendly to me.

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How often do you work with other students for your classes... *(Very rarely; Sometimes; Very often)*

- ...Because your teachers ask or tell you to?
- ...Even when your teacher doesn't ask or tell you to?

In the past year, have other students bullied or harassed you... *(please check all that apply) (Verbally; Physically; Socially; Through cyberbullying; I'm not sure; I have not been bullied or harassed during the school year)*

- Students bully each other for a lot of reasons – and being bullied is not your fault. To help your school understand the problem, why do you think it happened? *(please check all that apply) (How I look; My race or skin color; Because people think I'm gay; My sex or gender; How much money my family has; A disability that I have; My religion; Where my family is from)*

Culture – *Describes the degree to which students believe that their school fosters a culture of respect and fairness.*

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- Most students in this school want to do well in class.
- Most students in this school treat adults with respect.
- Most adults in this school treat students with respect.
- Discipline in this school is fair.
- Adults in my school respect people from different backgrounds. *(For example, people of different races, ethnicities, and genders.)*

Do any of the following make it hard for you to do your best in school? *(Home life; Extracurricular commitments; Family responsibilities; Relationship with boyfriend or girlfriend; After-school job; Getting picked on; Crime and violence outside of school; Crime and violence in school; Other; I don't feel there are significant obstacles that prevent me from doing my best)*

College & Career Readiness – *Describes the degree to which students feel equipped to pursue college and careers.*

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- My school has helped me develop the skills and knowledge I will need for college-level classes.
- My school has helped me understand the steps I need to take in order to apply to college.
- My school has helped me figure out which careers match my interests and abilities.
- My school has helped me understand the steps I need to take to have the career that I want.

Do you want to go to college? *(Yes; No; I'm not sure)*

After you finish high school, what do you expect to do next? *(Attend a 4-year college; Attend a 2-year college; Work full time at a job; Join the military; I'm not sure; Other)*

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Have you participated in any of the following services at your school? *(College entrance exam preparation (SAT/ACT); Counseling about future career possibilities; Counseling about admissions requirements for different types of colleges; Counseling about how to apply to college; Counseling about how to pay for college; Help choosing classes need to graduate)*

- *(If yes) How helpful have these services been to you? (1 = Not at all helpful; 5 = Very helpful)*

Academic Support Services

Have you participated in any of the following academic support services at your school? *(After-school tutoring program; One-on-one tutoring with a teacher or adult; After-school make-up classes; Classes on how to study)*

- *(If yes) How helpful has each service been to you? (1 = Not at all helpful; 5 = Very helpful)*

This year, have you participated in an advisory class at your school? *(Yes; No; I don't know)*

- *(If yes) How helpful have you found the advisory class at your school this year? (1 = Not at all helpful; 5 = Very helpful)*

Strengths & Areas for Improvement

- **What do you like most about your school?** *(My school inspires me to do my best; I have supportive teachers who care about me and help me; Students and staff treat each other with respect and fairness; My classes challenge me to think critically; My school is getting me ready for college or my career)*
- **What do you dislike most about your school?** *(My school does not do enough to inspire me to be a good student; I don't have enough supportive teachers who care about me and help me; Students and staff don't treat each other with enough respect and fairness; My classes don't do enough to challenge me to think critically; My school is not getting me ready for college or my career)*
- **Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your school? Please provide any comments you'd like to share below.**

Students provide comments responding in more detail to their answers to the two questions in this section. These comments are provided in an indexed table, categorized into the themes listed above.

Demographics

- **What grade are you in?** *(9th; 10th; 11th; 12th; Other)*
- **What is your gender?** *(Male; Female; I identify in another way; Prefer not to say)*
- **What is your race/ethnicity?** *(White; Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; Hispanic/Latino; Other; Prefer not to say)*
- **Choose the letter grade that corresponds with your cumulative grade point average (GPA) for all subjects in high school.** *(A+; A; A-; B+; B; B-; C+; C; C-; D+; D; D-; E/F; Prefer not to say)*

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- An English language learner (ELL) is a student whose first language is not English but who is learning English. English Language Learners usually participate in English language classes at school, like ESL/ESOL classes, or other language programs or services to learn English. Are you an English Language Learner? *(Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)*
- Remember, other students will not know how you answer, and your answer will be combined with those of other students before being shared with adults at your school. Do you 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)*
- At school, are you able to receive lunch for free or at a lower price? *(Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)*

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School Safety – Describes students' level of perceived safety while on campus, in the community, and at home. Themes include drivers of conflict at school and responses to bullying and harassment.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I feel safe from harm while...
 - ...At school in general.
 - ...In my classes.
 - ...In the hallways, bathrooms, and locker rooms at my school.
 - ...On school property outside my school building.
 - ...Going to and from school (for example: on the school bus/public transportation, ...walking to and from school).
 - ...In the neighborhood I live in.
 - ...In my home.

At school, how often do the following happen? (1 = Never or almost never; 5 = Always or almost always)

- Students go out of their way to treat other students badly.
- There is conflict based on race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender or disabilities.
- Students get into physical fights.
- I must be ready to fight to defend myself.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- In my school, there are clear rules against hurting other people (for example, hitting, pushing or tripping).
- Adults at my school try to stop bullying and harassment.
- I usually try to help other students who are being bullied or harassed.

Note: Questions about bullying are included as part of the Overall School Experience survey.

