

YouthTruth

— STUDENT SURVEY —

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

Overall School Experience

Middle School Survey Questions

YouthTruth

STUDENT SURVEY

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

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 – Middle School Survey

The Overall School Experience survey for middle school includes questions that gather student feedback about their overall school experiences and takes approximately 16 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 take pride in my school work.
- What I learn in class helps me outside of school.

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)

- In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my classes.
- The work that I do for my classes makes me really think.
- My teachers explain things in a way that I understand.
- My teachers give me assignments that really help me learn.
- My school is helping me learn the material I will need for high school.
- I feel like I will be ready for high school when I finish middle school.
- In most of my classes, we learn almost every day.
- 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.
- In most of my classes, we learn to correct our mistakes.
- Most of my teachers want me to explain my answers – why I think what I think.

Do you want to go to college one day? (Yes, No, I'm not sure)

YouthTruth

— STUDENT SURVEY —
A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

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.

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 treat adults with respect.
- Most adults in this school treat students with respect.
- I think my classmates want to do well in class.
- 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? (My home life, Family responsibilities, Getting picked on, Extracurricular responsibilities, Relationship with my boyfriend or girlfriend, Changing from elementary school to middle school, Crime and violence outside school, Crime and violence in school)

- At school, are you part of clubs, teams, or other groups (sports, music, art, etc.)? (Yes, No)
- Outside of school, are you part of clubs, sports, teams, church/religious activities, or other groups? (Yes, No)

YouthTruth

STUDENT SURVEY

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

Belonging & Peer Collaboration – Describes the degree to which students feel welcome at their school and have collaborative relationships with their classmates.

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

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

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 have not been bullied or harassed during this school year; I'm not sure)

- 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; People think I'm gay; My sex or gender; How much money my family has; A disability I have; My religion; Where my family is from)

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?
- ...Try to understand what your life is like outside of school?

In your school this year, is there at least one adult who would be willing to help you with a personal problem? (Yes, No, I don't know)

YouthTruth

STUDENT SURVEY

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

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 high school)*
- **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 high school)*
- **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?** *(6th; 7th; 8th; 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)*
- **In your current classes, what have most of your grades been?** *(Mostly As; Mostly Bs; Mostly Cs; Mostly Ds or below; Don't know; Prefer not to say)*
- **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)*

STEM – Describes students' experiences applying lessons from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Themes include future aspirations in STEM fields, collaboration, and technology use in and outside of school.

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

- In the future, I see myself becoming a scientist, engineer, mathematician, or working with technology.
- I would choose to take additional courses in math or science even if they were not required.
- My teachers make connections between what I learn in my math, English, social studies, and science classes.
- I will use what I learn in math and science classes once I've graduated from high school.
- My school has made me more interested in pursuing a career in math, science, technology or engineering.
- I understand how math, science, technology and engineering are used in various careers.

Have you taken part in any of the following experiences? (Yes; No; I'm not sure)

- Participating in an internship
- Hearing from professionals who have visited my school
- Having a professional mentor
- Attending field trips or summer camp
- Participating in science, technology, engineering or math competitions or fairs

If so, how helpful have these experiences been to you in understanding how math, science, technology, and engineering are used in various careers? (1 = Not at all helpful; 5 = Very helpful)

During this school year, how frequently have you engaged in the following activities either in or out of school? (1 = Very rarely; 5 = Very often)

- Participated in hands-on group projects that involve building or designing
- Worked with a group to design a solution to a problem
- Independently found a solution to a problem that I haven't been taught how to solve
- Applied lessons I've learned in class to solving a problem
- Worked with students and community groups to address issues in my community

YouthTruth

STUDENT SURVEY

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

I use technology in school to do the following activities: (1 = Very rarely; 5 = Very often)

- Create a digital portfolio
- Conduct simulations
- Analyze data
- Design solutions to problems
- Conduct research
- Share ideas, questions, and issues with other students online
- Other (please specify)

I use technology outside of school to do the following activities: (1 = Very rarely; 5 = Very often)

- Create a digital portfolio
- Conduct simulations
- Analyze data
- Design solutions to problems
- Conduct research
- Share ideas, questions, and issues with other students online
- Other (please specify)

YouthTruth

STUDENT SURVEY

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

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.

