

# Assessment of School Climate



National Center  
for Mental Health  
Promotion and  
Youth Violence  
Prevention

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# Learning Objectives

- Participants will gain an understanding of the purpose and protocols for disseminating the **NET School Climate Survey (SCS)**, as well as how to access survey outcomes.
- Participants will view preliminary survey results.
- Participants will explore how school climate data can be used for planning and sustainability.



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# **The SS/HS Staff School Climate Survey**



## Staff School Climate Survey: Background



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- Developed by WestEd, an educational research and development agency, as part of the Healthy Kids Survey data system.
- Selected by the National Evaluation Team because it assesses variables and outcomes that are key to the SS/HS goals.
- Assesses school staff perceptions of the learning environment.
- Only takes 7 to 8 minutes to complete.



## Group Feedback

- Are you:
  - Rural
  - Urban
  - Multi-district
  - In California\*

\*In compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, CA has required all districts in the State that receive Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities funds to administer the Healthy Kids Surveys biennially.



# Staff School Climate Survey: Scales & Items



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- **Staff/student relationships**
- **Student behaviors that facilitate learning**
- **School-level norms and standards**
- **Perception of student violent behavior**
- **Perception of school as a safe place**
- **Adequate health/counseling services**
- **Perception of problems with ATOD use**

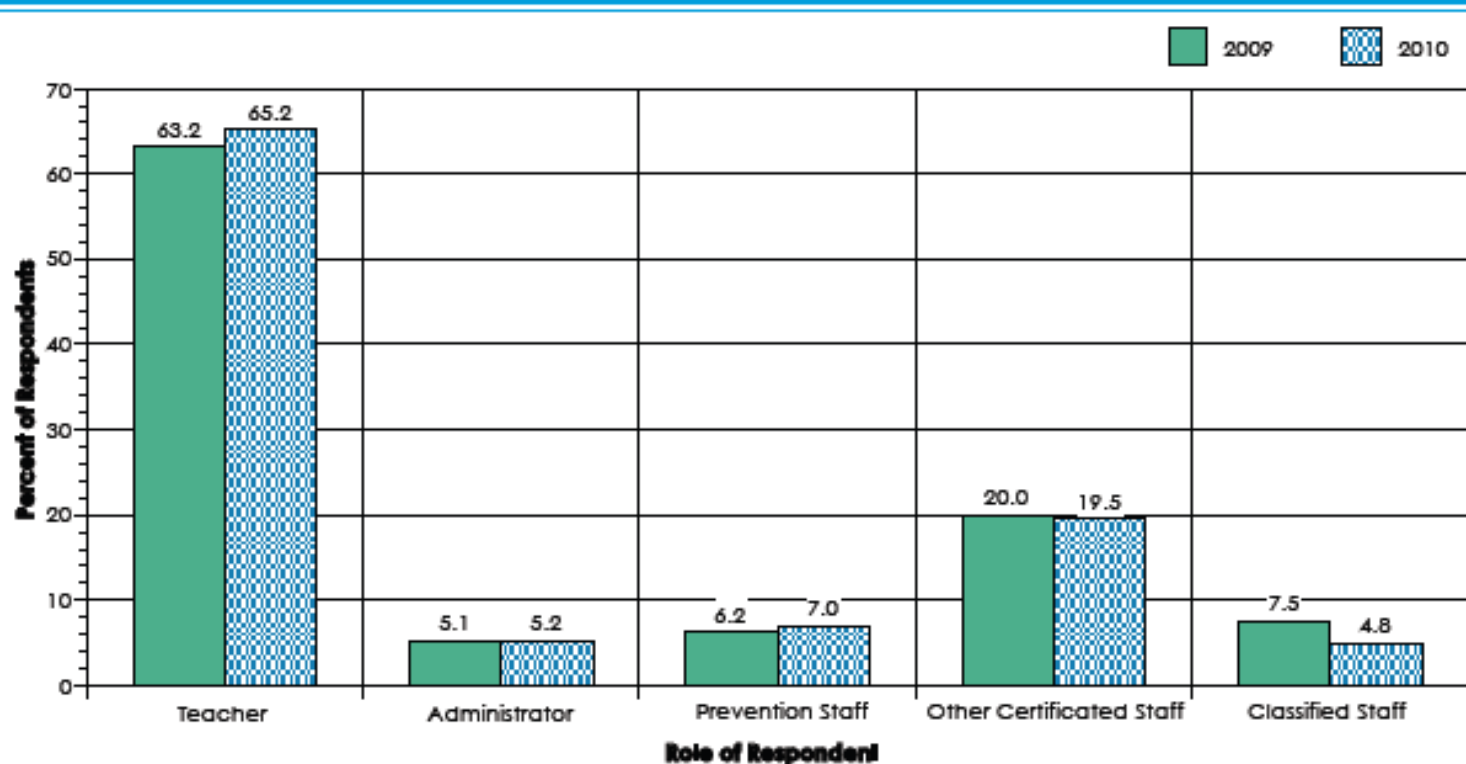


# Staff School Climate Survey: Respondents, by Role



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PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS BY ROLE AND YEAR OF ADMINISTRATION





# Staff School Climate Survey: Changes between 2009 & 2010



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## CHANGES FROM 2009 TO 2010 ADMINISTRATION BY SCHOOL TYPE AND SCALE

	ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE	HIGH
Staff/Student Relationships	—	+	
Student Behaviors that Facilitate Learning	—	+	
School-level Norms and Standards		+	+
Perception of Student Violent Behavior		+	
Perception of School as a Safe Place		+	
Clear, Consistent Communication and Policy Enforcement			
Adequate Health/Counseling Services	+	+	
Perception of Problems with ATOD Use			



# Staff School Climate Survey: Sample of 2008 Cohort Findings in 2009



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This school...						
Is a supportive and inviting place for students to learn	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable	Number of Responses
Elementary	55.2%	42.1%	2.1%	0.4%	0.1%	5955
Middle	40.1%	54.9%	4.1%	0.8%	0.2%	2853
High	30.1%	62.0%	5.9%	1.6%	0.3%	3544
Alternative	49.9%	45.4%	3.4%	1.0%	0.3%	615
Other	28.1%	57.7%	11.3%	2.5%	0.3%	892
Sets high standards for academic performance for all	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable	Number of Responses
Elementary	53.4%	42.2%	3.8%	0.4%	0.3%	5946
Middle	36.4%	52.5%	9.5%	1.3%	0.4%	2846
High	25.0%	55.8%	15.6%	3.1%	0.5%	3532
Alternative	35.5%	48.4%	13.1%	2.1%	0.8%	611
Other	24.9%	49.0%	20.9%	4.1%	1.1%	888

# School Climate Surveys for Parents and Students

- NET has both surveys available on line:  
<http://www.sshs.samhsa.gov/community/evaluation.aspx>
- Highly recommended but not required
- “Triangulation” – getting data from three different sources paints a more accurate picture of school climate
- Local Evaluator needs to enter data (if a paper survey is administered) & analyze results



## Group Discussion

- Has your SCS administration included:
  - Only the staff survey?
  - The (optional) student survey?
  - The (optional) parent survey?
- If student/parent survey administered, was it modified/adapted in any way?
- Who has been responsible for oversight of the SCS administration/analysis of results (e.g., the PD, the local evaluator)?



# Staff School Climate Survey: How to Use the Results



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- **Use comparisons to examine trends**
  - Perceptions of student and parent school climate data where applicable
  - Behavioral data from youth surveys
  - Previous years' school climate data to examine trends
  - National Evaluation Team's data by cohort
- **Examine differences** among staff types (teachers, administrators, etc.)



# Staff School Climate Survey: How to Use the Results



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- **Provide data for:**
  - Planning purposes
  - Outcome evaluation
  - Sustainability
  
- **Inform presentations to:**
  - Core Management Team members
  - Federal Project Officers
  - School superintendents, administrators, and staff
  - Other community stakeholders



# Staff School Climate Survey: How to Use the Results



- **Identify area of need** in terms of specific topics or type of programming.

Examples:

- 1 site had several schools request information on bullying based on information from SCS results;
- 1 site's superintendent mandated that schools hold regularly scheduled professional development sessions to address the issues; and
- Several sites examined SCS data to determine whether additional staff trainings were needed.



# Staff School Climate Survey: How to Use the Results



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## Group Discussion

- If you have administered the student and/or parent survey, how did the survey results differ?
- How/with whom have the SCS results been used in your community?



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# Other Assessment/Evaluation Tools



## Group Discussion

- What other assessments of school climate have been used within your community?
- How have you integrated the results of the assessments?



# Preschool Climate Assessment

## The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)

- The CLASS is an observation instrument developed to assess classroom quality in preschool through third-grade classrooms.
- Based on developmental theory and research suggesting that interactions between children and adults are the primary mechanism for children's learning and development.
- Data is collected through classroom observations across three key domains.
  - The Emotional Support domain can provide an assessment of classroom climate.

Questions?



## For More Information

- SCS Resources (e.g., staff, parent, and student surveys; SCS Guidebook):
  - ❖ <http://www.sshs.samhsa.gov/community/evaluation.aspx>
- To access the results of the SCS online:
  - ❖ [www.wested.org/sshs](http://www.wested.org/sshs)



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