

# **School Climate: How It Relates to Achievement**

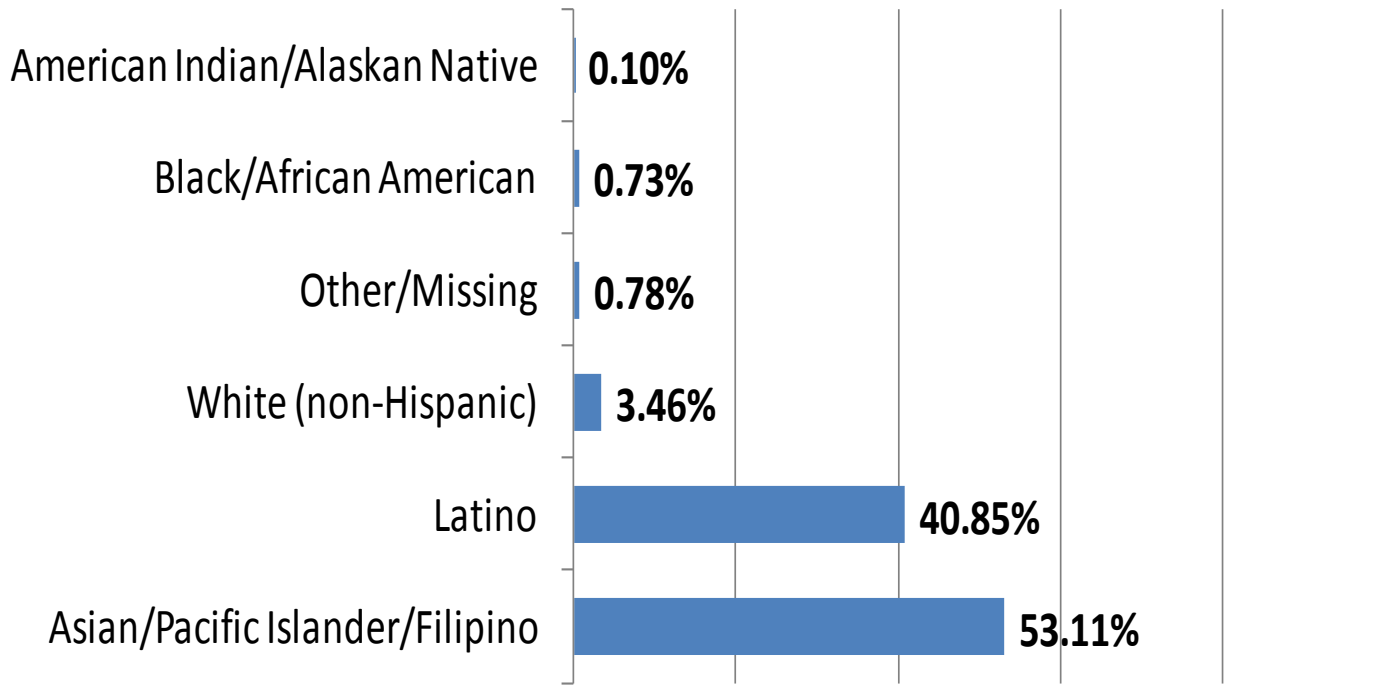
Alhambra Unified School District

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# AUSD's Cultural Breakdown



# School Climate: What Is It?

- 🍎 What is it? The general cohesive, group culture and interactive behavior at school.
  - Includes parents, students, teachers, surrounding community
- 🍎 **Greater school climate** leads to **greater commitment** of students to school (Weiss, 2005).



# AUSD School Climate Survey

- 🍎 Scan-tron forms distributed to students and parents
- 🍎 Opportunity to see what are the needs at school and how the program can reach more students, parents, and teachers.
- 🍎 Anonymous and confidential

## SECTION 3

Instruction: On the scantron sheet, bubble the letter that best describes your experience at this school for each of the statements using categories (A) Absolutely Disagree, (B) Disagree, (C) Agree, or (D) Absolutely Agree.

Statement	Response Options			
	Absolutely Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Absolutely Agree
1. There are bullies at school.	A	B	C	D
2. I know about different events at school.	A	B	C	D
3. I know students who drink alcohol at school.	A	B	C	D
4. The school provides ways for families to be involved at school.	A	B	C	D
5. Information about mental health is not available through the school.	A	B	C	D
6. Parents do not feel important to this school.	A	B	C	D
7. I cannot get the support and help that I need at school.	A	B	C	D
8. People respect different cultures at school.	A	B	C	D
9. I trust people at this school.	A	B	C	D
10. The counselors at school do not care about students and families.	A	B	C	D
11. People at school treat each other with respect.	A	B	C	D
12. The rules in this school are fair.	A	B	C	D
13. I have seen weapons at school.	A	B	C	D
14. For academic year 2010-2011, I missed school because I felt unsafe going to and from school.	A	B	C	D
15. People at school care whether I am successful or not.	A	B	C	D
16. I like this school.	A	B	C	D
17. Students help put together events at school.	A	B	C	D
18. I have participated in at least one school event since September 2008.	A	B	C	D
19. School is a positive place.	A	B	C	D
20. It is easy to find drugs at school.	A	B	C	D
21. I have attended workshops about mental health at school.	A	B	C	D
22. Students exclude other students because they are different.	A	B	C	D
23. At school, it is okay to talk about feelings.	A	B	C	D
24. I feel welcomed at school functions.	A	B	C	D
25. I do not feel welcome at the school.	A	B	C	D
26. I feel safe at school.	A	B	C	D
27. Counseling services are available at school.	A	B	C	D
28. People are encouraged to express their views.	A	B	C	D
29. School wide discipline policy is consistently applied.	A	B	C	D

# Focus of School Climate Survey

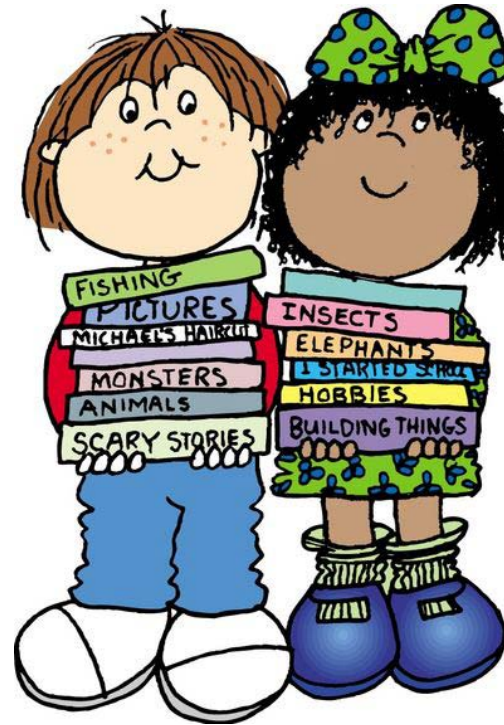
- 🍎 Assess perceptions (students, parents, teachers) of the learning environment in the following areas:
  - 🍎 Academic norms, standards, and priorities
  - 🍎 The working environment in the school
  - 🍎 Learning supports and barriers
  - 🍎 Staff-student relationships and staff supportive relationships
  - 🍎 Student connectedness to the school
  - 🍎 The problems posed by student risk behaviors (substance use, violence, and truancy)
  - 🍎 Staff and student safety
  - 🍎 Nature, communication, and enforcement of school rules/policies
  - 🍎 Availability of health and counseling services



# Connecting School Climate

- 🍎 Positive school climate helps children in their personal and academic growth (Marshall, 2003; Weiss et al., 2005).
- 🍎 More positive school climate is related to fewer disruptive behaviors among students (Cushing et al., 2003; Weiss et al., 2005; Marshall, 2003).
- 🍎 Positive school climate is protective for at-risk students (Marshall, 2003).
- 🍎 Positive school climate leads to greater attachment and commitment to the school (Wilson, 2004).

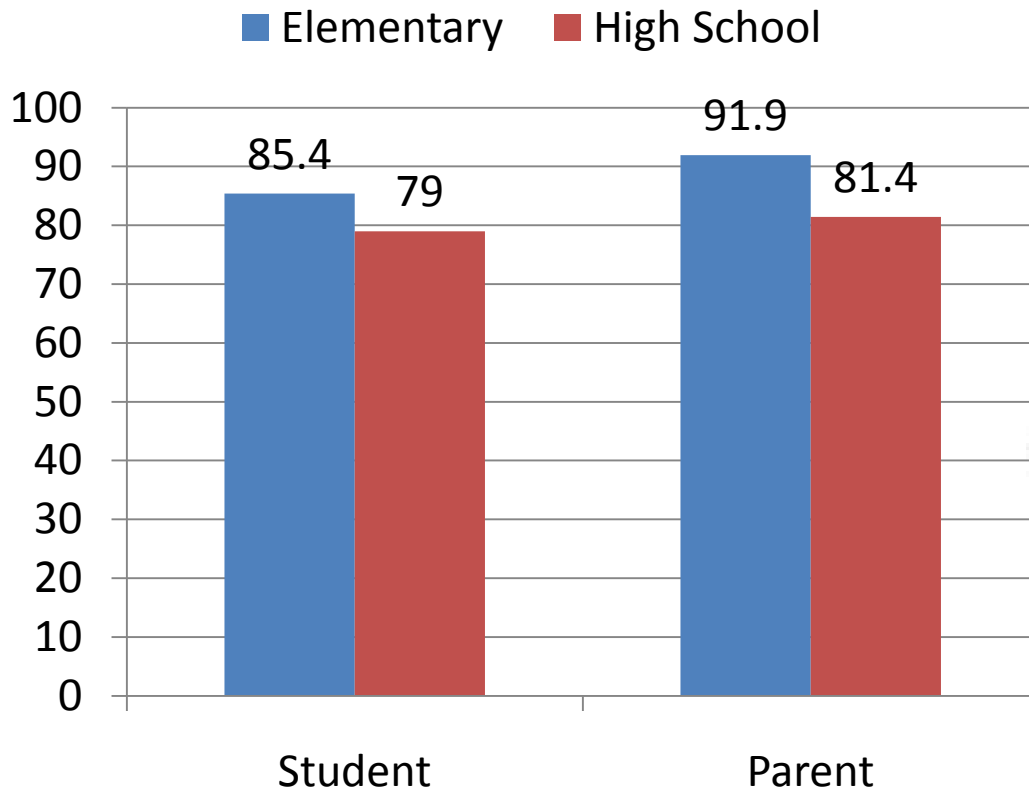




# RESULTS FROM 2009-2010 SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

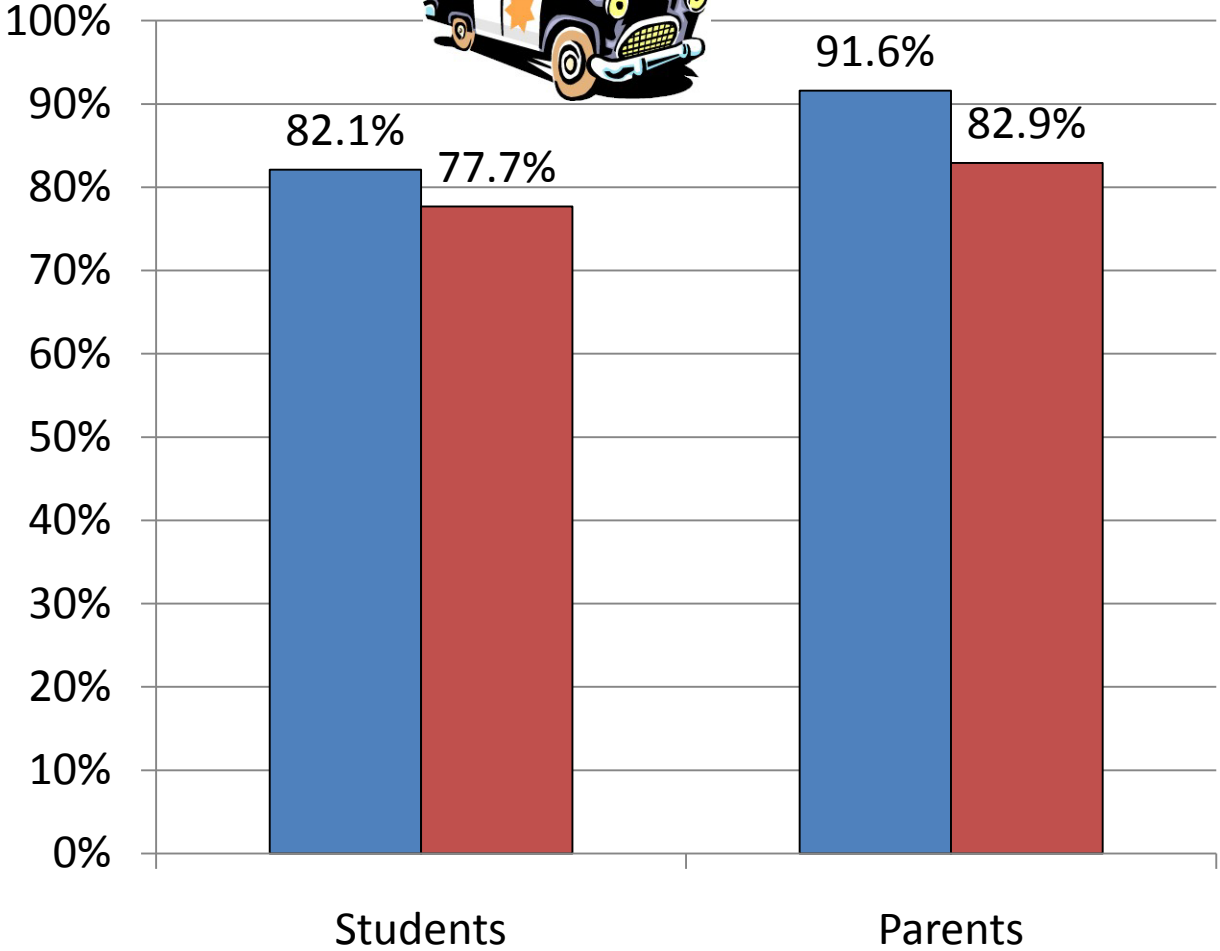


# Students/Parents think they are well-informed about school rules





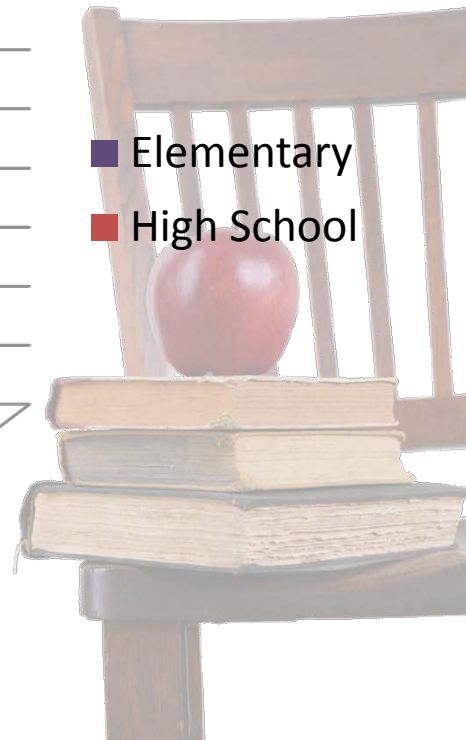
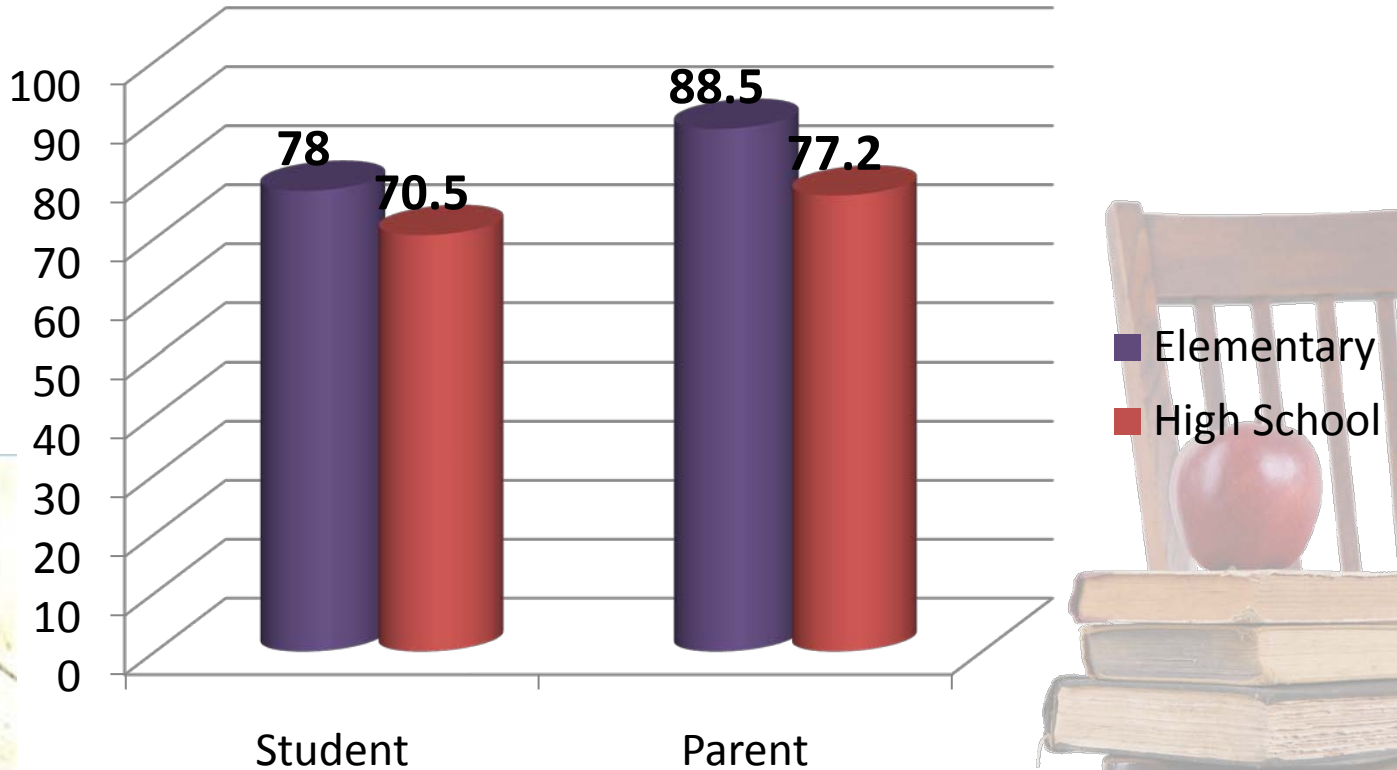
# Students/Parents Who Feel Safe At School



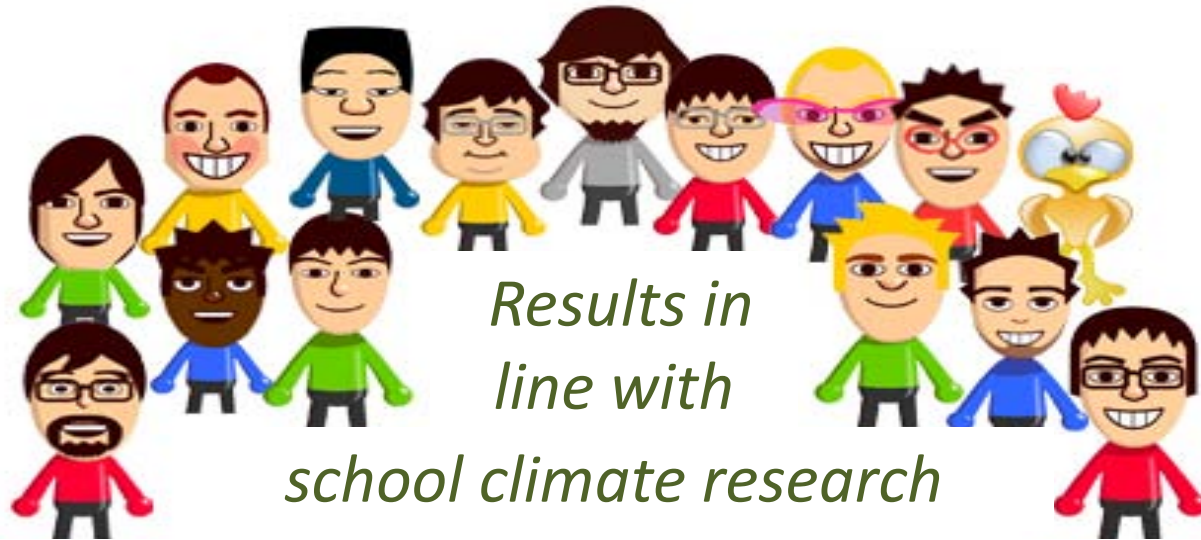
■ Elementary  
■ High School



# Students/Parents who think that you can count on adults to try and make sure that students are safe.



# Positive School Climate: AUSD Results



- 🍎 Increase in **state test scores**
- 🍎 Reduction in **truancy** by 50%
- 🍎 Reduction in **suspensions** by over 65%
- 🍎 Reduction in **expulsions** by over 55%

 Questions?

 Thank you

