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Research and Evaluation

Students continue to report a positive school climate

Student Climate Survey results: Spring 2014 through Spring 2016

What is the purpose of the student climate survey?

Students' perceptions of student engagement, behavioral environment, academic selfconfidence, adult fairness and respect, teacher expectations, school connectedness, and social and emotional learning (SEL) skills are assessed with the Austin Independent School District's (AISD) Student Climate Survey. This report summarizes results at the district level from Spring 2014 through Spring 2016. Campus reports are available on the Department of Research and Evaluation's (DRE) <u>website</u>.

How did students rate school climate in 2016?

Elementary school students' responses continued to be more favorable than middle and high school students' responses. The following tables display the percentage of students responding *a lot of the time* and s*ometimes* to each item. The appendix displays results by ethnicity and gender for middle and high school students.

Student engagement

Table 1

Most students surveyed in Spring 2016 report feeling engaged in their schoolwork.

Student engagement	I	Element	tary		Middle	9		High	
Student engagement	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
I like to come to school.	83%	83%	83% ^{a,b}	68%	69%	68% ^a	68%	69%	69% ^b
I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	81%	81%	81% ^{a,b}	58%	60%	59% ^a	57%	58%	60% ^b
My homework helps me learn the things I need to know.	88%	88%	87% ^a	72%	74%	70% ª	73%	72%	73% ^a
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	86%	84%	84% ^{a,b}	70%	71%	69% ^a	68%	68%	70% ^b
I have fun learning in my classes.	88%	88%	88% ^{a,b}	68%	71%	69% ^a	69%	69%	71% ^b
My teachers connect what I am doing to my life outside the classroom.	82%	80%	79% ª	58%	60%	58% ª	60%	59%	61% ª
I receive recognition or praise for doing good work.	88%	88%	88% ^{a,b}	74%	75%	75% ^a	72%	73%	74% ^b

Source. Spring 2014 through Spring 2016 Student Climate Surveys.

Note. Response options ranged from 1 = never to 4 = a lot of the time. Percentages reflect students who selected 3 = sometimes or 4 = a lot of the time. 2016 elementary, middle, and high school percentages sharing the same superscript within item are significantly different (p <.05) using the z-test for proportions. Percentages in tables are rounded; calculations were computed using unrounded percentages.

Behavioral environment

Table 2

About half of the students believe students are bullied at their school at least sometimes. Students surveyed report feeling safe, respected by and happy with their classmates.

Behavioral environment	El	ementa	ry		Middle		High			
Denavioral environment	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	
My classmates show respect to each other.	88%	88%	87% ^a	79%	81%	80% ^{a,b}	86%	86%	88% ^b	
My classmates show respect to other students who are different.	85%	84%	85% ^a	75%	79%	79% ^a	83%	83%	86% ^a	
l am happy with the way my classmates treat me.	86%	85%	85% ^a	86%	87%	86% ^b	90%	90%	91% ^{a,b}	
Students at my school follow the school rules.	81%	82%	80% ^a	61%	63%	63% ^a	71%	70%	73% ^a	
I feel safe at my school.	91%	91%	92% ^a	82%	84%	86% ^a	86%	86%	89% ^a	
Students at this school treat teachers with respect.	90%	89%	88% ^a	71%	73%	74% ^a	80%	79%	81% ^a	
My classmates behave the way my teachers want them to.	77%	77%	74% ^a	60%	64%	62% ^{a,b}	73%	72%	74% ^b	
Our classes stay busy and do not waste time.	83%	83%	82% ^a	70%	74%	74% ^{a,b}	79%	78%	82% ^b	
Students at my school are bullied (teased, taunted, threatened by other students).	49%	54%	48% ^a	65%	62%	61% ª	52%	55%	51% ^a	

Academic self-confidence

Table 3

Students surveyed in Spring 2016 report favorable ratings of their academic self-confidence.

Academic self-confidence	Elementary			Middle			High		
Academic Sen-connuence	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
l can do even the hardest schoolwork if l try.	92%	92%	91% ^{a,b}	84%	86%	85% ^a	84%	85%	86% ^b
I try hard to do my best work.	98%	97%	97% ^a	92%	92%	92% ^a	89%	89%	90% ^a
I feel successful in my schoolwork.	93%	92%	92% ^a	86%	87%	87% ^a	83%	84%	85% ^a
I can reach the goals I set for myself.	93%	93%	92% ^{a,b}	88%	90%	89% ^a	88%	88%	90% ^b

Statistical and Meaningful Differences

We used z-test for proportions to determine whether the observed differences between students' responses based on school levels were likely due to chance or were real differences. Significant differences are noted with superscripts in this report.

We used Cohen's *h* measure of effect size to determine whether the magnitude of a change from year to year was meaningful. Effect sizes greater than or equal to .20 are considered meaningful in educational research and are noted with up or down arrows in this report.

About this survey

AISD students in grades 3 through 11 have participated in the annual Student Climate Survey since 2004. To ensure students are asked the most critical questions concerning their perceptions of school environment, the survey has been revised over the years. Cells with a * indicate that the item was reworded.

In 2016, we added items to assess students' SEL skills. Also using existing items from the Student Climate Survey, we included an additional subscale assessing students' school connectedness. This subscale closely mirrors the school connectedness subscale developed for the <u>Adolescent</u> <u>Health Survey</u>.

In 2016, 33 campuses administered the survey online.

Adult fairness and respect

Table 4

Students surveyed in Spring 2016 felt cared for and respected by their teachers.

Students surveyed also report that adults on their campus are fair and treat students with respect.

Adult fairnass and respect	E	lementar	у		Middle			High		
Adult fairness and respect	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	
Teachers at this school care about their students.	98%	97%	97% ^{a,b}	87%	89%	89% ^a	88%	88%	89% ^b	
Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions.	92%	92%	93% ^a	78%	80%	80% ^a	80%	80%	82% ^a	
Adults at this school treat all students fairly.	94%	94%	94% ^a	80%	82%	82% ^a	81%	80%	84% ^a	
The staff in the front office show respect to students.	97%	97%	97% ^a	89%	90%	91% ^a	86%	85%	87% ^a	
My teachers are fair to everyone.	94%	94%	94% ^a	80%	81%	82% ^a	82%	81%	84% ^a	
Teachers at this school know who I am.	92%	92%	92% ^a	86%	87%	87% ^a	83%	82%	84% ^a	
My teachers know what I am good at.	95%	94%	94% ^a	83%	84%	82% ^a	81%	81%	81% ^a	

Teacher expectations

Table 5

Students surveyed in Spring 2016 report that teachers have high expectations for their learning.

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Teacher expectations	E	lementar	у		Middle		High		
Teacher expectations	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
My teachers believe I can learn.	98%	98%	98% ^{a,b}	89%	93%	93% ^a	88%	92%	92% ^b
My teachers believe I can do well in school.	98%	98%	98% ^{a,b}	91%	93%	93% ^a	91%	91%	93% ^b
My teachers expect me to think hard about the things we read.	98%个	97%	96% ^{a,b}	88%	90%	90% ^a	88%	89%	90% ^b
My teachers expect everybody to work hard.	99%个	98%	98% ^{a,b}	92%	93%	94% ^a	91%	91%	93% ^b
My teachers expect my best effort.	98%	98%	98% ^{a,b}	93%	94%	94% ^a	92%	91%	94% ^b

School connectedness

Table 6

Students surveyed in Spring 2016 report feeling connected to, and happy with their school.

School connectedness	E	lementar	у		Middle		High		
School connectedness	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
l am happy with the way my classmates treat me.	86%	85%	85% ^a	86%	87%	86% ^b	90%	90%	91% ^{a,b}
Adults at this school treat all students fairly.	94%	94%	94% ^a	80%	82%	82% ^a	81%	80%	84% ^a
It is easy for me to talk about my problems with the adults at my school.	*	*	73% ^{a,b}	*	*	59% ^a	*	*	60% ^b
I like to come to school.	83%	83%	83% ^{a,b}	68%	69%	68% ^a	68%	69%	69% ^b
l feel safe at school.	91%	91%	92% ^a	82%	84%	86% ^a	86%	86%	89% ^a
Teachers at this school know who I am.	92%	92%	92% ^a	86%	87%	87% ^a	83%	82%	84% ^a

SEL skills

Table 6

Students surveyed in Spring 2016 report that they get along with their classmates.

Two thirds of students surveyed feel comfortable discussing their problems with adults at their school.

SEL skills	Elementary	Middle	High
SEL SKIIIS	2016	2016	2016
l use ways to calm myself down.	83% ^a	75% ^a	80% ^a
I don't give up even when I feel frustrated.	89% ^{a,b}	82% ^a	82% ^b
I know what people may be feeling by the look on their face.	90% ^{a,b}	87% ^a	87% ^b
I get along with my classmates.	90% ^a	88% ^b	90% ^b
I say "no" to friends who want me to break the rules.	91% ^{a,b}	86% ^a	87% ^b
It is easy for me to talk about my problems with the adults at my school.	73% ^{a,b}	59% ^a	60% ^b

College intentions

Figure 1

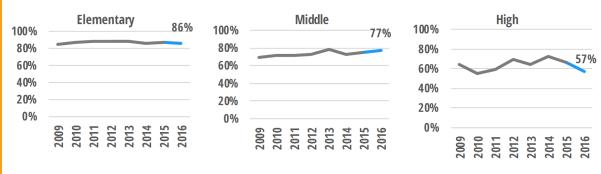
Three quarters of students surveyed in Spring 2016 believe they will go to college after high school.



Source. Spring 2013 through Spring 2016 Student Climate Surveys.

Who responded to the survey?

Figure 2 Spring 2016 response rates were high at elementary schools, improved at middle schools, but declined at high schools.



		Year										
School level	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016				
Elementary	16,674	17,425	17,641	18,352	17,963	16,960	17,261	16,995				
Middle	10,661	11,548	10,939	11,644	12,547	11,752	11,816	12,014				
High	9,452	8,675	8,315	11,197	10,279	12,033	11,144	9,688				

Source. Spring 2009 through Spring 2016 Student Climate Surveys.

Appendix: Middle and high school results based on student self-identified group

As part of the Student Climate Survey, middle and high school students are asked to self-identify their race and gender. The following tables display the Spring 2016 percentage of agreement with each item on the survey, based on students' self-identified group.

Table A1

Number of students responding to the survey in each self-identified student group.

Number of respondents	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female
Middle	6,293	5,601	1,356	5,983	5,676
High	5,187	4,431	1,204	4,434	4,895

Table A2

Percentage of students responding they will attend college after high school.

			Middle					High		
	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female
I will go to college after high school	69% ^a	82% ^a	76% ª	73%	79%*	66% ^{a,b}	81% ^a	79% ^b	68%	80%*

Table A3

Student engagement

			Middle					High		
Student engagement	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female
I like to come to school.	69% ^a	68% ^b	64% ^{a,b}	68%	69%	70% ^a	70% ^b	64% ^{a,b}	72%[*]	68%
I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	60% ^a	57% ^a	58%	58%	60%	64% ^{a,b}	56% ^a	62% ^b	59%	62% [*]
My homework helps me learn the things I need to know.	72% ^a	66% ^{a,b}	70% ^b	69%	72%*	74% ^{a,b}	70% ^a	71% ^b	70%	75% [*]
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	71% ^a	67% ^a	67%	70%	69%	71% ^a	68% ^a	68%	70%	70%
I have fun learning in my classes.	68%	70%	67%	69%	69%	69%	71%	68%	71%	71%
My teachers connect what I am doing to my life outside the classroom.	58%	57%	56%	58%	58%	58% ^a	62% ^{a,b}	57% ^b	61%	60%
l receive recognition or praise for doing good work.	75%	74%	74%	75%	75%	71% ^a	77% ^a	74%	75%	73%

Source. Spring 2016 Student Climate Survey

Note. Response options ranged from 1 = never to 4 = a lot of the time. Percentages reflect students who selected 3 = sometimes or 4 = a lot of the time. Using the z-test for proportions where p < .05, 2016 percentages sharing the same superscript within item and level are significantly different across ethnic group; * indicates a significantly higher percentage within item and level across gender. Percentages in the table are rounded; tests for significance were computed prior to rounding.

Appendix, continued

Table A4 Behavioral environment

			Middle					High		
Behavioral environment	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female
My classmates show respect to each other.	77% ^a	83% ^a	72% ^a	80%	81%	87% ^a	90% ^a	80% ^a	87%	88%
My classmates show respect to other students who are different.	78% ^a	80% ^a	71% ^a	79%	79%	86 % ^a	87% ^b	79% ^{a,b}	85%	86%
l am happy with the way my classmates treat me.	86% ^a	88% ^a	80% ^a	87%	86%	92% ª	93% ª	85% ^a	92%	91%
Students at my school follow the school rules.	60% ^a	67% ^a	53% ^a	65% *	62%	72% ^a	77% ^a	66% ^a	74%	73%
I feel safe at my school.	84% ^a	89% ^a	79% ^a	85%	87%	88% ^a	92% ^a	81% ^a	88%	90% *
Students at this school treat teachers with respect.	71% ^a	78% ^a	62% ^a	74%	73%	80% ^a	85% ^a	72% ^a	82%	82%
My classmates behave the way my teachers want them to.	58% ^a	66% ^a	53% ^a	64 % [*]	60%	70% ^a	79% ^{a,b}	67% ^b	75%	74%
Our classes stay busy and do not waste time.	71% ^a	78% ^a	66% ^a	74%	74%	80% ^a	85% ^a	75% ^a	81%	83%
Students at my school are bullied (teased, taunted, threatened by other students).	63% ª	58% ^a	66% ª	59%	62%*	53% ª	48% ^a	57% ^a	49%	52%

Table A5

Academic self-confidence

			Middle			High					
Academic self-confidence	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	
l can do even the hardest schoolwork if l try.	83% ^a	87% ^{a,b}	81% ^b	85%	85%	85% ^a	88% ^a	82% ^a	86%	87%	
I try hard to do my best work.	91% ^a	93% ^{a,b}	89% ^b	91%	94% [*]	90%	91%	87%	88%	93%*	
I feel successful in my schoolwork.	85% ^a	89% ^{a,b}	84% ^b	87%	87%	85%	86% ^a	83% ^a	85%	86%	
I can reach the goals I set for myself.	88% ^a	90% ^{a,b}	87% ^b	89%	89%	90% ^a	90%	87% ^a	89%	91%	

Appendix, continued

Table A6

Adult fairness and respect

			Middle			High					
Adult fairness and respect	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	
Teachers at this school care about their students.	87% ^a	90% ª	83% ^a	88%	90%	89 % ^a	91% ª	83% ^a	89%	90%	
Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions.	79% ^a	82% ^a	71% ^a	80%	81%	82% ^a	82% ^b	76% ^{a,b}	81%	83%	
Adults at this school treat all students fairly.	81% ^a	83% ^b	72% ^{a,b}	82%	82%	84% ^a	85% ^b	77% ^{a,b}	84%	84%	
The staff in the front office show respect to students.	91% ^a	92% ^b	87% ^{a,b}	92%	91%	87% ^a	88% ^b	82% ^{a,b}	88%	86%	
My teachers are fair to everyone.	81% ^a	84% ^a	73% ^a	82%	82%	83% ^a	86% ^a	77% ^a	83%	84%	
Teachers at this school know who I am.	86% ^a	89% ^{a,b}	85% ^b	88%*	87%	82% ^a	88% ^{a,b}	81% ^b	85%	84%	
My teachers know what I am good at.	83%	82%	81%	83%	83%	80%	82%	81%	82% [*]	80%	

Table A7

Teacher expectations

			Middle			High					
Teacher expectations	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	
My teachers believe I can learn.	92% ^a	94% ^a	88% ^a	92%	94 % [*]	92% ^a	94% ^a	88% ^a	92%	93%	
My teachers believe I can do well in school.	92% ^a	94% ^a	89% ^a	92%	94 % [*]	93% ^a	94% ^b	88% ^{a,b}	92%	94%*	
My teachers expect me to think hard about the things we read.	90% ^a	91% ^a	86% ^a	90%	91% [*]	89% ^a	92% ^a	85% ª	89%	91% [*]	
My teachers expect everybody to work hard.	93% ª	95% ^a	90% ^a	93%	95% *	93% ^a	95% ª	88% ^a	92%	95% *	
My teachers expect my best effort.	94% ^a	96% ^a	91% ª	94%	96% *	93% ª	95% ^a	89% ^a	93%	95% *	

Appendix, continued

Table A8

School connectedness

		Middle		High						
School connectedness	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female
l am happy with the way my classmates treat me.	86% ^a	88% ^a	80% ^a	87%	86%	92% ^a	93% ª	85% ^a	92%	91%
Adults at this school treat all students fairly.	81% ª	83% ^b	72% ^{a,b}	82%	82%	84% ^a	85% ^b	77% ^{a,b}	84%	84%
It is easy for me to talk about my problems with the adults at my school.	58% ^a	59% ^b	53% ^{a,b}	62% [*]	55%	58% ^a	62% ^a	59%	65 % [*]	56%
I like to come to school.	69% ^a	68% ^b	64% ^{a,b}	68%	69%	70% ^a	70% ^b	64% ^{a,b}	72% [*]	68%
I feel safe at my school.	84% ^a	89% ^a	79% ^a	85%	87%	88% ^a	92% ^a	81% ^a	88%	90%*
Teachers at this school know who I am.	86% ª	89% ^{a,b}	85% ^b	88%*	87%	82% ª	88% ^{a,b}	81% ^b	85%	84%

Table A9

SEL skills

		Middle		High						
SEL skills	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female	Hispanic	White	African American	Male	Female
l use ways to calm myself down.	74%	75%	72%	74%	76 % [*]	79% ^a	82% ^{a,b}	79% ^b	80%	81%
I don't give up even when I feel frustrated.	79% ^a	84% ^{a,b}	76% ^b	83%	81% [*]	79% ^a	83% ^{a,b}	80% ^b	83%*	80%
I know what people may be feeling by the look on their face.	86% ^a	89% ^a	83% ^a	85%	89% [*]	85% ^a	89% ^{a,b}	84% ^b	85%	89% [*]
l get along with my classmates.	87% ^a	90% ^a	82% ^a	89%	88%	89% ^a	92% ^a	84% ^a	91%	91%
l say "no" to friends who want me to break the rules.	84% ^a	90% ^{a,b}	82% ^b	85%	88% [*]	86% ^a	89% ^a	83% ^a	85%	89%*
It is easy for me to talk about my problems with the adults at my school.	58% ª	59% ^b	53% ^{a,b}	62% *	55%	58% ^a	62% ^a	59%	65% *	56%

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