

Climate Survey FAQ and Fact Sheet

Why are there two surveys?

Earlier this month, BSD launched a Climate Survey designed to help us benchmark and analyze the District's current climate. Just before the original launch date, our Climate Team learned the survey did not meet the District's needs and expectations around the collection of feedback on district administration and central office climate. Recognizing that despite this deficiency the survey still contained important and necessary questions about the our school-level climates, we elected to move forward with launching the survey, while committing to work with our partners to develop a way to collect the District-level pieces.



We are now pleased to share that building on the National School Climate Center's Survey, the University of Vermont has created a similar survey, specifically to collect feedback on district administration and central office climate. This information is completely confidential and will be analyzed and stored at the University of Vermont. The UVM faculty and researchers will share this data in partnership with BSD and the results will be used alongside the results of the NSCC survey. The results of both surveys will be paired, analyzed and shared with community, so that the answers to both will serve as our roadmap moving forward.

What if I don't have access to a computer or don't understand the survey?

We will be hosting events throughout the district on **Thursday, May 24th from 5:30 -7:30 PM in our school libraries** so that everyone has access and support if needed to complete the online survey. Interpreters will be available and children are welcome to attend. So please feel free to drop by your child's school library to complete the online survey and while you're there! be sure to enter the drawing for a charming door prize. Hope to see you there!

These locations are: CP Smith, Edmunds Elementary, Champlain Elementary, Sustainability Academy, Integrated Arts Academy, Flynn Elementary, Hunt Middle School, Edmunds Middle School, and Burlington High School.



BSD Climate Survey Your Voice Matters!

**Is accessing or translating the climate survey a barrier?
If so, feel free to join us on
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In any of our school libraries**

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What does school climate mean and why is a positive school climate necessary?

The focused goals of school climate refer to a school or district's impact on students, families and staff. The goals speak to an equitable culture and climate; and an inclusive teaching and learning climate. This may include teaching practices; diversity; and the relationships among administrators, teachers, parents/families, and students. School culture reflects the way teachers and other staff members work together and their shared professional set of beliefs and values.

Research proves that positive school climate is recognized as an important target for school reform and improving behavioral, academic, and mental health outcomes for students (Thapa et al., 2012). Additionally, a positive school climate also has benefits for teachers and education support professionals (Bradshaw, Waasdorp et al., 2010). Research shows that when educators feel supported by their administration, they report higher levels of commitment and more collegiality (Singh & Billingsley, 1998).

What is different about this survey from past surveys?

- The district held community meetings in 2016-17 to garner input for the strategic plan. Community discussions at those meetings focused on the goals of Equitable Culture and Climate and Inclusive Teaching and Learning, and specifically called for benchmark data on where the district currently falls on these issues. The survey is a direct response to this community request.
- Both the administration of the survey and the data analysis is being conducted by entities independent of the district - We are seeking authentic voice, in a safe and anonymous format.
- There is a team developing an engagement plan in order to reach as many parents as possible.
- This survey will form baseline climate survey data for the District for years to come. Our partners at UVM will hold data for future analysis. This directly correlates with the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which requires all districts to maintain annual school climate data.
- The data will inform our next steps for our restorative work within the District by highlighting strengths to build on and areas that need attention.
- The survey results will be shared with a variety of audiences afterwards and the National School Climate Center will work with us to tailor effective presentation of results.

When will the survey be open & general timeline?

- May 9th – June 6 survey administered
 - Each school and building will have designated dates for staff and students to take the survey
 - Survey kiosks will be available at each building for staff who cannot take the survey during the pre-scheduled time.
- June 2018 survey results returned with suggested plans of action from the NSCC
- Fall 2018
 - Survey results will be shared when school resumes in August.
 - With the assistance of NSCC staff, District-based action planning committees of Admin, Teachers, Staff, Parents and Students will review and analyze data and develop action plans for how to improve the climate and culture using restorative approaches.
- December 2018
 - Finalize action plans based on survey results, district interpretation, staff and community feedback, and UVM and NSCC analysis.

What areas will the survey focus on?

The survey will provide results in the following “5 dimensions of school climate”:

1. Teaching & Learning: Support for Learning Social & Civic Learning
2. Safety: Rules & Norms, Sense of Physical Security, Sense of Social Emotional Security
3. Interpersonal Relationships: Respect for Diversity, Social Support - Adults, Social Support - Students
4. Leadership & Professional Relationships
5. Institutional Environment: School Connectedness/Engagement Physical Surroundings

We look forward to taking these next steps together!