

# YouthTruth

— STUDENT SURVEY —

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

## Family Survey Questions

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.

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## Family Survey Questions

The Family Survey includes questions that gather parents' and guardians' feedback about their child's school and takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete (additional topic modules add about 5 minutes each in survey length and are limited to 2). Overall strengths and areas for improvement, recommend rate, and indexed qualitative comments are also included.

So far this school year, how has your child attended classes? (*In-person at school, Virtually, Both in-person at school and virtually*)

### General

- What do you like most about this school? (*Friendly and supportive teachers and staff; Strong academic programs; Support services and programs for parents and families; Strong extracurricular programs; Great supplies and/or facilities; Nothing; Other*)
- What is one area in which this school could improve? (*Teachers and staff could do more to be more friendly and supportive; Stronger academic programs; More/better support services and programs for families; Stronger extracurricular programs; Better supplies and/or facilities; Nothing; Other*)
- Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your school? Please provide any comments that you'd like to share below. (*Open text*)
- My child is getting a high-quality education at this school. (*1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree*)
- I would recommend this school to parents seeking a school for their child. (*1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree*)

**Culture** – *Describes the degree to which families believe their school fosters shared goals, respect, fairness, and diversity.*

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (*1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree*)

- I am proud of my school.
- Discipline in this school is fair.
- My school runs smoothly.
- My school respects people of different:
  - Religions and faiths.
  - Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
  - Learning abilities.
  - Gender identities. (e.g. men, women, people who identify in a different way)
  - Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
  - Races/ethnicities.
  - Countries of origin.
- I feel valued by my school.
- My school creates a friendly environment.
- My school's policies are administered fairly and consistently.
- I believe in my school's mission.

**Engagement** – Describes the degree to which families are engaged in their school and empowered to influence decision-making.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Parent/family members are included in planning school activities.
- I feel engaged with my school.  
I feel represented by parent/family groups (i.e. Parent-Teacher Association) at my school.
- I feel empowered to play a meaningful role in decision-making at my school.
- I feel informed about important decisions regarding my school.

**Relationships** – Describes the degree to which families experience positive relationships in their school based on respect, care, and approachability.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Teachers treat families with respect.
- Families and teachers care about each other.
- Teachers and students care about each other.
- I feel comfortable approaching the school administration about my concerns.
- School administrators treat families with respect.
- I feel comfortable approaching teachers about my child's progress.

**Communication & Feedback** – Describes the degree to which there are open and effective lines of communication between families and schools.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I receive information about what my child should learn and be able to do.
- I receive regular feedback about my child's progress.
- Teachers clearly communicate expectations for my child's progress.

**School Safety** – Describes the degree to which families believe that their school is a safe place for students.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- My child is safe from bullying during school.
- My child's learning environment is safe.

Related:

My child is safe from violence at school. (not asked of families whose students are attending school virtually.)

**Resources** – Describes the degree to which families believe that their school deploys the necessary resources to support students.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- My school sets high expectations for students.
- My school provides the guidance necessary to help my child succeed.
- My school has the resources necessary to achieve learning goals.
- My school has the resources necessary to prepare my child for the future.

## Demographics

- How many children do you have attending this school? (Just to remind you: if you have multiple children at this school, you may complete the survey again so you have the opportunity to respond about each child that attends the school.) (One (1); Two (2); Three (3); Four or more (4+))
- What grade is your child in? (Kindergarten (K); First Grade (1st); Second Grade (2nd); Third Grade (3rd); Fourth Grade (4th); Fifth Grade (5th); Sixth Grade (6th); Seventh Grade (7th); Eighth Grade (8th); Ninth Grade (9th); Tenth Grade (10th); Eleventh Grade (11th); Twelfth Grade (12th); Other (please specify))
- What is your relationship with your child? (Parent; Other (please specify))
- How do you describe yourself? (Male; Female; I identify in another way; Prefer not to say)
- What is your race/ethnicity? (please check all that apply) (White; Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; Hispanic, Latinx, Spanish origin; Other (please specify); Prefer not to say)
- Does your child have an IEP (individualized education program or plan), receive special education services, or receive 504 services? (Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)
- At school, is your child able to receive lunch for free or at a lower price? (Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)
- What is the primary language spoken in your home? (English; Spanish; Chinese; Vietnamese; Tagalog; Korean; Russian; Other (please specify))
- What is the highest level of education that you have completed? (Some high school; High school/GED; Some college; Associate degree or technical certificate; Bachelor's Degree; Graduate Degree; Prefer not to say)
- Think about your life lately. How much has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you? (1 = Not at all; 2 = A little bit; 3 = Somewhat; 4 = Moderately; 5 = Significantly)

## Family Survey Additional Topics

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Additional topic modules can be added to customize the core Family Survey. Each additional topic module increases the Family Survey length by about 3 minutes.

**Distance Learning** – *Describes parents'/guardians' experiences with their child's virtual learning.*

My child's school has provided helpful resources to support my child's distance learning. *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

While distance learning, does your child use any technology offered by their school or district (tablets, internet hotspot, etc.)? *(Yes, No, Not Applicable)*

*(If yes)* How helpful is this technology? *(1 = Not at all helpful; 2 = Not very helpful; 3 = Somewhat helpful; 4 = Helpful; 5 = Very helpful)*

While distance learning, my child's school has provided helpful resources to support my child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). *(1 = Strongly Disagree; 5 = Strongly Agree; My child does not have an IEP)*

While distance learning... *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- My child has the materials they need to complete their schoolwork (papers, tools, and other materials)
- My child can access their schoolwork.
- My child can complete schoolwork that is assigned to them.
- My child can turn in schoolwork that is assigned to them.
- My school regularly assigns my child schoolwork.
- My school has been clear about how my child will be graded this semester.

I am comfortable with the online interactions my child is having during distance learning. *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

While distance learning, do any of the following make it hard for your child to do their best in school? *(please check all that apply)*

- No access, or limited access, to internet
- No access, or limited access, to a computer or device
- Lack of a quiet space
- There is not an adult who can help my child with their schoolwork
- Teachers are not as available to help
- Too many learning applications
- Distractions from siblings or family members
- The health of family members
- My job
- Family stress
- My child feeling depressed, stressed, or anxious

While distance learning, the amount of time my child spends online in live instruction with their teacher(s) is... (1 = Not enough time; 2 = Somewhat too little time; 3 = The right amount of time; 4 = Somewhat too much time 5 = Too much time)

How would you rate your experience with distance learning so far this school year? (1 = Very Dissatisfied; 2 = Dissatisfied; 3 = Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied; 4 = Satisfied; 5 = Very Satisfied)

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – Assesses parents’ and guardians’ school experiences through the lens of diversity, inclusion and social justice.

My school puts practices in place that include families of diverse backgrounds in community conversations (e.g. state of the school, town hall, listening sessions, etc.). (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

Think about your school. How often do you see people of diverse backgrounds: (1= Very rarely; 2= Somewhat Rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Somewhat often; 5 = Very often)

- In artworks, posters and/or pictures?
- In publications (e.g. newsletter, newspapers, yearbooks, etc.)?
- In materials sent by the school?
- During school events (e.g. virtual school activities, school fairs, sporting events, etc.)?

I feel like I can talk to adults from my school about: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- My religion or faith.
- My sexual orientation.
- A disability I have. (if you do not have a disability, you may skip this question)
- My gender identity. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- How much money my family has.
- My race or ethnicity.
- Where my family is from.

Adults from my school value people of different: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Religions or faiths.
- Sexual orientations.
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes.
- Races or ethnicities
- Countries.

My school provides resources in the language(s) my family needs. (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

My school encourages families to speak out against racism. (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor Disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

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My school clearly communicates how to report acts of discrimination. (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor Disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)