

The West Virginia Safe and Supportive Schools Grant Program

School Climate Index Report Robert C. Byrd High School

According to the National School Climate Center, school climate refers to the quality and character of school life, and is based on students', parents', and school personnel's experience with the school. It reflects the norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices, and organizational structures within the school setting.

Although no consensus has been reached about which school climate dimensions are essential, in the context of the Safe and Supportive Schools initiative, school climate has been described in three primary domains:

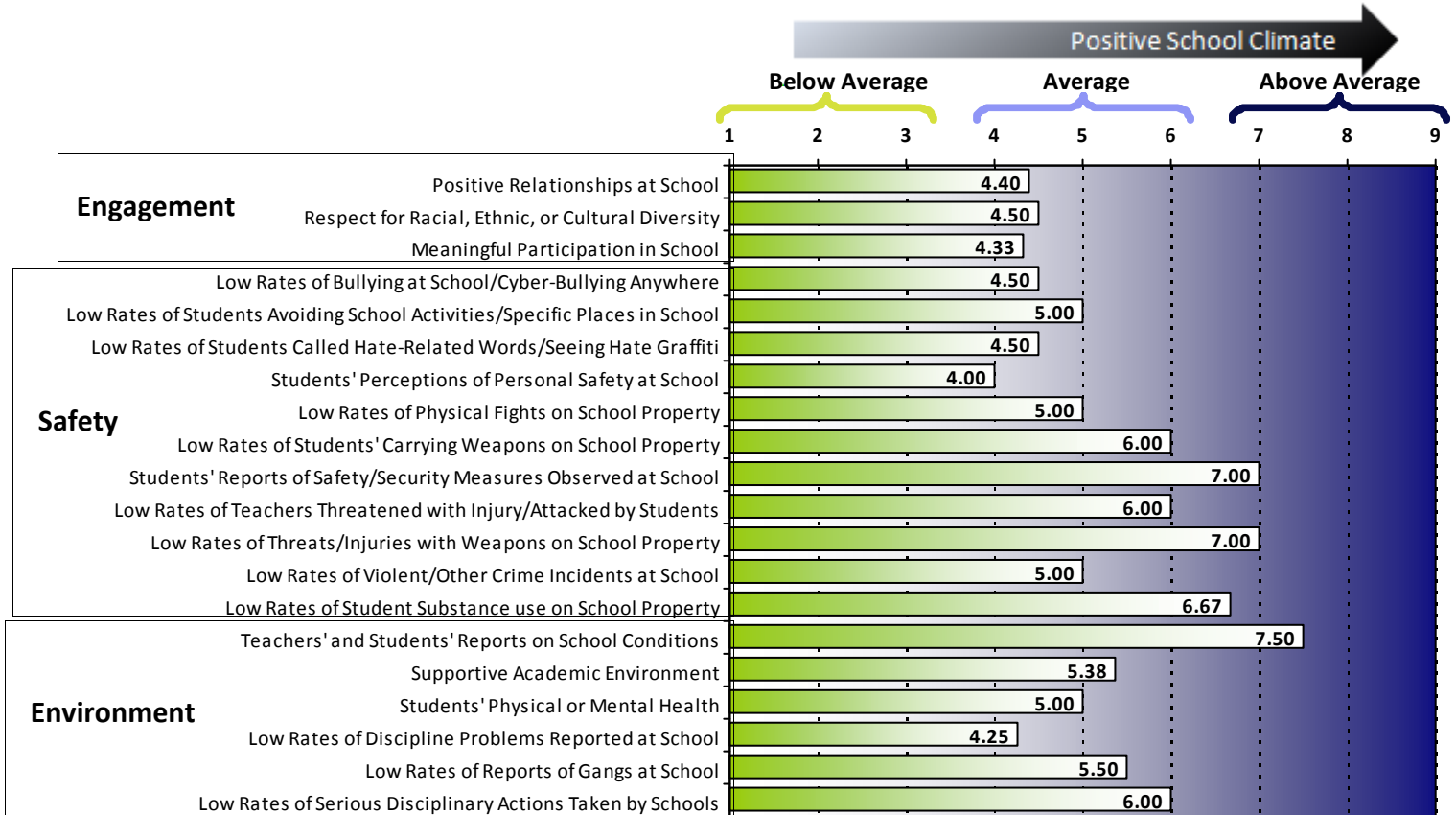
- ENGAGEMENT:** The quality of relationships and interactions among students and staff, respect for diversity in the school environment, and participation in and connectedness to the school community;
- SAFETY:** The physical and emotional safety of the school community, which is influenced by the positive and negative behaviors of students and staff. Also included here are the availability and use of illicit substances in the school setting;
- ENVIRONMENT:** The physical aspects of the school (facilities upkeep, etc.), the academic environment, the availability of physical and mental health supports for students; and the disciplinary tone in the school setting.

In West Virginia, a School Climate Index has been developed using 20 indicators related to the three domains listed above. The indicators were developed from student and staff survey data, as well as discipline data reported into the WV Education Information System (WVEIS). A score was assigned to each indicator for each school on the basis of how the school compared to 42 West Virginia high schools involved in the Safe and Supportive Schools Grant Program. Index scores range from 1 to 9, with 9 representing more positive or desirable school climate conditions.

Index scores can be interpreted as above the average (scores from 7 to 9), about the same as average (scores from 4 to 6), or below the average (scores from 1 to 3) of all the WV schools involved in the S3 grant. Generally, in planning for school improvement priority should be given to indicators with lower scores.

The school climate index scores on each indicator for this school are shown in the chart below. The scores on the twenty indicators were averaged to obtain an overall school climate index score for each school.

Robert C. Byrd High School Overall School Climate Index Score: 5.38 on a Scale from 1 to 9





School Climate Survey

West Virginia
Safe & Supportive Schools Project
Parent School Climate Survey Results
Robert C. Byrd High School

This report was prepared by WestEd, a research, development, and service agency. The West Virginia School Climate Surveys includes information that is licensed to WestEd by the California Department of Education (CDE) from its California School Climate, Health, and Learning Surveys of students, school staff, and parents. All publications, documents, and materials referencing this survey and report must include acknowledgement of this license.

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[District/ School Name]. *West Virginia Safe and Supportive Schools Survey, 2010–11: Main Report*. San Francisco: WestEd Health & Human Development Program for the West Virginia Department of Education.

PREFACE

This report provides the detailed results provided to parent, guardians and other adult care givers on each question in your 2010-11 administration of the *School Parent Survey* (SPS), presented in tables organized by topic.

This report provides the detailed results for each question from this school/district's 2010–11 *West Virginia School Climate Survey* (WVSCS) of parents, presented in tables organized by topic. This survey is based on the nationally-recognized California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), one of a suite of student, staff, and parent surveys known as the Healthy Kids School Climate Surveys and adopted and modified by the West Virginia Department of Education for use in its Safe and Supportive Schools (S3) Initiative. To help in understanding and interpreting these results, the *CHKS Guidebook* to survey content discusses the significance of each question. Several other tools to help in data use are also available, as described below.¹

The results of this staff survey should be compared to those obtained from the companion WVSCS surveys of students and staff. Combined, the three surveys provide a comprehensive assessment of the school climate, and the needs and perceptions of key stakeholders within the school community, to guide school improvement efforts.

SURVEY PURPOSE

The purpose for the development of the Healthy Kids survey for students in 1997 by the California Department of Education was to provide data that would assist schools in (1) preventing youth health-risk behaviors and other barriers to academic achievement; (2) promoting positive youth development, resilience, and well-being; and (3) fostering positive school climates and engagement in learning. A thorough understanding of the scope and nature of youth behaviors, attitudes, and learning conditions is essential to guide school improvement efforts and to develop effective prevention, health, and youth development programs. The adoption of this survey by the West Virginia Department of Education for its Safe and Supportive Schools initiative reflects WVDE's commitment to helping schools promote the successful cognitive, social, and emotional development of all students and create more positive, engaging school environments for both students, parents and staff.

THE REPORT

In this Main Report, results are provided in tables with data from the school, county/district and the aggregated data from all the participating high schools in the state .

NEXT STEPS

Receiving this report is a beginning step in the process of using data to improve school climate. The following describes further actions that you can take.

Compare with Other Data Sources

Results from the staff survey will be enriched if analyzed in the context of data from the student and parent school climate survey and other data sources, particularly in the context of identifying consistent patterns or disconnects that need to be further explored. Other data typically collected in effectiveness

¹ West Virginia-*Integrated Guidebook*) http://cscs.wested.org/training_support

studies of school climate include numbers and kinds of discipline referrals, school demographic information, school vandalism costs, and behavioral observations in classrooms.

Discuss the results

Discuss the results with as many audiences as possible to explore the meaning of the results in more depth and to obtain their input into how the school might better meet the needs identified. This is especially important because it communicates to them that you value their input, and it may help improve participation in the next survey.

Conduct Additional Analyses

The dataset enables analyses of patterns in the results, how they are interrelated, and how they vary by different subgroups of staff and across schools within a district.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Healthy Kids School Climate Surveys were developed by WestEd, in collaboration with Duerr Evaluation Resources, under contract from the California Department of Education Coordinated School Health and Safety Office. In California the suite of student, staff, and parent surveys are known as the California School Climate, Healthy, and Learning Survey System (Cal-SCHLS) For more information, call the toll-free helpline at 888.841.7536, or visit the website at <http://cal-schls.wested.org/>. The West Virginia Department of Education adopted and modified these surveys to form the West Virginia School Climate Survey for use in its S3 project. The WVSCS includes information that is licensed to WestEd by the California Department of Education (CDE) from its copyrighted Cal-SCHLS surveys. All publications, documents, and materials referencing this survey and report must include acknowledgement of this license.

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Healthy Kids School Climate Survey Director, WestEd

I. Sample Characteristics

Table 1.1
Survey Sample

	School	District	State
Number of Respondents	69	324	2,240

Table 1.2
Role at Home

	School	%	District	%	State	%
Parent of at least one child at this school	100		98		94	
Grandparent, relative, and/or legal guardian	0		2		5	
Not applicable, not sure, or decline to answer	0		0		0	

Question: I am a...

Table 1.3
Program Participation

	School	%	District	%	State	%
Special Education Program	19		14		13	
English Language Development	0		1		1	
Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)	33		35		39	
Not applicable, not sure, decline to answer	48		48		44	

Question: Is your child in any of these programs?

Table 1.4
Number of Years at This School

	School	% District	% State
Less than one year	1	2	3
1 to 2 years	42	44	44
3 to 5 years	49	49	45
Over 5 years	7	5	8
Not applicable, not sure, decline to answer	0	0	0

Question: How many years has your child been at this school?

Table 1.5
Race/Ethnicity of Respondents

	School	% District	% State
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	2	1
Asian	0	1	1
Black or African American	1	1	3
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0
White	93	91	92
Mixed (two or more) races	3	2	1
Other	3	3	2

Question: What is your race?

Table 1.6
Free or Reduced Breakfast or Lunch

	School	% District	% State
Yes	28	22	34
No	71	77	64
Not applicable, not sure, decline to answer	1	1	2

Question: Does one or more of your children receive a free or reduced price breakfast or lunch at this school?

Table 1.7
Grade level

	School	% District	% State
9th Grade	17	15	15
10th Grade	23	30	31
11th Grade	32	31	30
12th Grade	39	34	33
Other	4	7	8
Ungraded	0	1	1

Question: In what grade is your child?

Table 1.8
Hispanic or Latino

	School	% District	% State
No	85	87	83
Yes	15	13	17

Question: Are you of Hispanic or Latino Origin

Table 1.9
Multiple Children at School

	School	% District	% State
Yes	69	69	66
No	18	20	21
Not applicable, not sure, or decline to answer	13	11	13

Question: Do you have more than one child in this school?

II. The Learning Environment

Student Learning Environment

Table 2.1

This School Promotes Academic Success for All Students

	School	% District	% State	%
Strongly disagree	7	5	7	
Disagree	18	14	16	
Agree	49	48	54	
Strongly agree	24	28	18	
Don't know	3	5	4	
Not applicable	0	0	0	

Question: This school...promotes academic success for all students.

Table 2.2

This School is an Inviting Place for Students to Learn

	School	% District	% State	%
Strongly disagree	4	6	9	
Disagree	21	15	17	
Agree	51	56	55	
Strongly agree	19	18	14	
Don't know	4	4	4	
Not applicable	0	0	0	

Question: This school...is an inviting place for students to learn.

Table 2.3
This School Provides Healthy Food Choices

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	5	11	13
Disagree	18	17	18
Agree	54	49	48
Strongly agree	11	11	10
Don't know	12	11	10
Not applicable	0	1	1

Question: This school...provides students with healthy food choices.

Table 2.4
This School is a Safe Place for My Child

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	3	4	7
Disagree	14	10	14
Agree	58	56	58
Strongly agree	22	28	18
Don't know	3	2	3
Not applicable	0	0	0

Question: This school...is a safe place for my child.

Table 2.5
This School Treats All Students with Respect

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	9	9	10
Disagree	25	18	22
Agree	47	48	47
Strongly agree	18	19	15
Don't know	1	6	6
Not applicable	0	0	0

Question: This school...treats all students with respect

Table 2.6
This School Informs Students of Rule Breaking Consequences

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	1	2	3
Disagree	1	4	7
Agree	54	56	58
Strongly agree	37	34	29
Don't know	6	4	3
Not applicable	0	0	0

Question: This school...clearly tells students in advance what will happen if they break school rules.

Cultural Sensitivity and Respect

Table 2.7
This School Enforces Rules Equally for All Students

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	13	15	18
Disagree	24	18	20
Agree	34	40	39
Strongly agree	25	21	15
Don't know	1	6	8
Not applicable	1	0	0

Question: This school...enforces school rules equally for my child and all students.

Table 2.8***This School Promotes Respect of All Cultural Beliefs and Practices***

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	2	3	5
Disagree	15	9	12
Agree	39	48	49
Strongly agree	15	17	12
Don't know	24	21	20
Not applicable	5	2	1

Question: This school...communicates the importance of respecting all cultural beliefs and practices.

Table 2.9***This School Encourages Students of All Races to Enroll in Challenging Courses***

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	3	3	6
Disagree	16	13	14
Agree	53	49	47
Strongly agree	13	20	19
Don't know	13	14	14
Not applicable	1	2	1

Question: This school...encourages all students to enroll in challenging courses regardless of their race, ethnicity, or nationality.

Table 2.10***This School Provides Culturally Appropriate Materials***

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	3	2	4
Disagree	9	9	12
Agree	41	47	47
Strongly agree	12	13	10
Don't know	24	21	21
Not applicable	12	8	6

Question: This school...provides instructional materials that reflect my child's culture, ethnicity, and identity.

Meaningful Participation

Table 2.11

This School Provides Opportunities for Meaningful Student Participation

	School	% District	% State	%
Strongly disagree	3	3	5	
Disagree	21	14	16	
Agree	48	52	49	
Strongly agree	16	20	16	
Don't know	12	11	13	
Not applicable	0	1	1	

Question: This school...gives all students opportunities to "make a difference" by helping other people, the school, or the community.

Table 2.12

This School Provides Opportunities for Classroom Participation

	School	% District	% State	%
Strongly disagree	0	1	3	
Disagree	6	3	5	
Agree	63	64	64	
Strongly agree	27	26	20	
Don't know	3	7	7	
Not applicable	2	0	1	

Question: This school...gives my child opportunities to participate in classroom activities.

Table 2.13***This School Provides Quality Sports, Clubs, or Other Activities to Meet My Child's Needs***

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	4	3	5
Disagree	6	6	11
Agree	52	55	56
Strongly agree	27	31	23
Don't know	6	4	4
Not applicable	4	1	1

Question: This school...provides quality activities that meet my child's interests and talents, such as sports, clubs, and music

Table 2.14***This School Provides Quality Programs for My Child's Talents, Gifts or Special Needs***

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	3	4	6
Disagree	20	13	15
Agree	48	51	50
Strongly agree	14	19	16
Don't know	11	8	9
Not applicable	5	4	4

Question: This school...has quality programs for my child's talents, gifts, or special needs.

Table 2.15***This School Provides Quality Counseling Addressing Social/Emotional Needs***

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	5	10	12
Disagree	23	17	19
Agree	36	39	38
Strongly agree	18	13	12
Don't know	14	18	17
Not applicable	5	3	2

Question: This school...provides quality counseling or other ways to help students with social or emotional need.

Parent Involvement

Table 2.16
This School Keeps Parents Well-informed about School Activities

	School	% District	% State	%
Strongly disagree	10	11	12	
Disagree	34	25	26	
Agree	41	45	44	
Strongly agree	15	18	17	
Don't know	0	1	1	
Not applicable	0	0	0	

Question: This school...keeps me well-informed about school activities.

Table 2.17
This School Welcomes Parent Input and Contribution

	School	% District	% State	%
Strongly disagree	7	7	9	
Disagree	15	14	19	
Agree	50	51	50	
Strongly agree	19	20	14	
Don't know	9	8	8	
Not applicable	0	0	0	

Question: This school...allows input and welcomes parents' contribution.

Table 2.18
This School Keeps Me Well-informed of My Child's Progress

	School	% District	% State	%
Strongly disagree	17	9	11	
Disagree	28	20	21	
Agree	38	50	48	
Strongly agree	17	20	20	
Don't know	0	0	1	
Not applicable	0	0	0	

Question: This school...keeps me well-informed about my child's progress in school.

Table 2.19***This School is Promptly Responsive to Parent Calls and Messages***

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	1	6	11
Disagree	34	15	18
Agree	34	54	48
Strongly agree	21	19	17
Don't know	3	2	3
Not applicable	6	3	3

Question: This school...promptly responds to my phone calls, messages, or e-mails.

Table 2.20***This School Encourages Parent Involvement and Partnership***

	School	% District	% State
Strongly disagree	12	8	10
Disagree	30	18	22
Agree	37	53	49
Strongly agree	15	17	14
Don't know	6	4	4
Not applicable	0	1	1

Question: This school...encourages me to be an active partner with the school in educating my child.

III. Perception of Student Risk Behavior

Table 3.1
Alcohol and Drug Use

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	8	7	6
Mild problem	18	24	21
Moderate problem	32	32	32
Severe problem	20	18	21
Don't know	23	17	18
Not applicable	0	2	2

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...student alcohol and drug use?

Table 3.2
Harassment or Bullying

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	6	11	10
Mild problem	28	29	25
Moderate problem	31	26	27
Severe problem	18	18	22
Don't know	16	15	15
Not applicable	0	2	1

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is..harassment or bullying of students

Table 3.3
Physical Fights

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	18	18	13
Mild problem	34	33	30
Moderate problem	19	21	27
Severe problem	10	10	15
Don't know	18	17	14
Not applicable	0	2	1

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...physical fighting between student.

Table 3.4
Racial/Ethnic Conflict

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	33	40	32
Mild problem	16	20	22
Moderate problem	12	7	11
Severe problem	0	2	5
Don't know	34	28	26
Not applicable	4	3	4

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...racial/ethnic conflict among students?

Table 3.5
Students Disrespecting Staff

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	9	19	16
Mild problem	29	27	24
Moderate problem	21	19	22
Severe problem	16	11	16
Don't know	22	21	20
Not applicable	3	3	2

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...lack of respect of staff by students?

Table 3.6
Gang Activity

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	32	50	42
Mild problem	14	10	10
Moderate problem	2	2	4
Severe problem	0	0	2
Don't know	50	31	34
Not applicable	3	7	7

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...gang-related activity?

Table 3.7
Weapon Possession

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	35	44	34
Mild problem	9	17	20
Moderate problem	8	4	7
Severe problem	2	1	3
Don't know	45	30	31
Not applicable	2	4	5

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...weapons possession?

Table 3.8
Vandalism

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	21	27	22
Mild problem	21	25	23
Moderate problem	14	10	13
Severe problem	5	5	7
Don't know	39	30	31
Not applicable	0	3	3

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...vandalism (including graffiti)?

Table 3.9
Tobacco

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	7	8	6
Mild problem	22	21	17
Moderate problem	25	32	31
Severe problem	21	20	28
Don't know	24	19	16
Not applicable	0	1	2

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...student tobacco use?

Table 3.10
Disruptive Behavior

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	10	16	12
Mild problem	26	29	26
Moderate problem	26	24	28
Severe problem	15	9	16
Don't know	22	20	17
Not applicable	0	2	1

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...disruptive student behavior?

Table 3.11
Depression/Mental Health Problems

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	15	20	17
Mild problem	19	21	21
Moderate problem	13	12	15
Severe problem	1	4	6
Don't know	51	41	39
Not applicable	0	2	2

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...student depression or other mental problems?

Table 3.12
Truancy

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	10	20	15
Mild problem	19	26	25
Moderate problem	31	15	19
Severe problem	13	8	11
Don't know	25	29	29
Not applicable	0	3	2

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...cutting classes or being truant?

Table 3.13
Theft

	School	% District	% State
Insignificant problem	35	48	40
Mild problem	9	11	12
Moderate problem	2	1	4
Severe problem	2	1	2
Don't know	53	35	37
Not applicable	0	4	5

Question: Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...theft?