

# The West Virginia Safe and Supportive Schools Grant Program

## School Climate Index Report South Harrison 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:

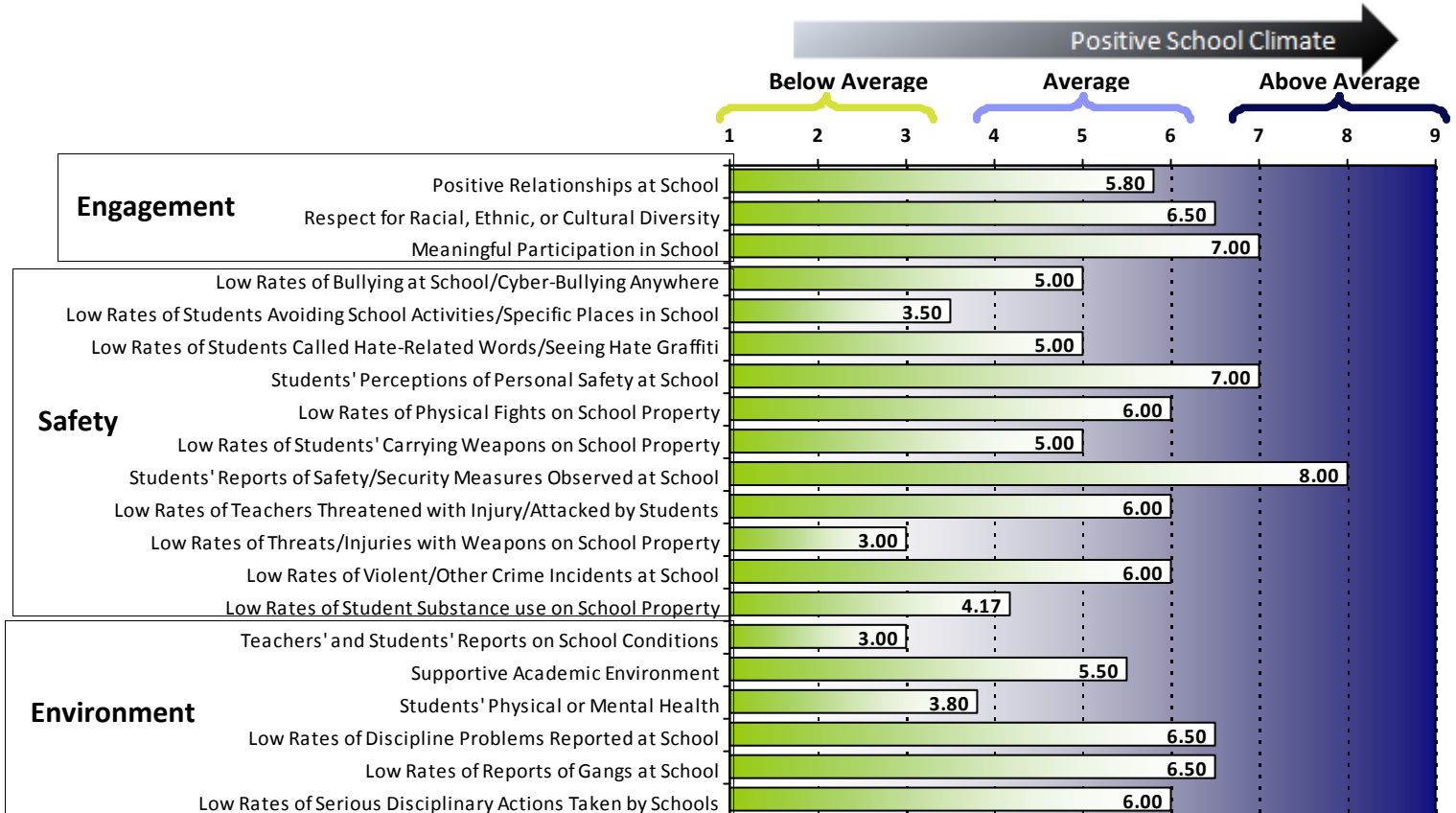
- ENGAGEMENT:** The quality of relationships and interactions among students and staff, respect for diversity in the school environment, and participation in and connectedness to the school community;
- SAFETY:** The physical and emotional safety of the school community, which is influenced by the positive 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.

**South Harrison High School Overall School Climate Index Score: 5.46 on a Scale from 1 to 9**





# School Climate Survey

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West Virginia  
Safe & Supportive Schools Project  
Parent School Climate Survey Results  
South Harrison High School

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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.<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> West Virginia-*Integrated Guidebook*) [http://cscs.wested.org/training\\_support](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.

Gregory Austin, Ph.D.  
Healthy Kids School Climate Survey Director, WestEd

## I. Sample Characteristics

**Table 1.1**  
***Survey Sample***

	School	District	State
Number of Respondents	27	324	2,240

**Table 1.2**  
***Role at Home***

	School	%	District	%	State	%
Parent of at least one child at this school	93		98		94	
Grandparent, relative, and/or legal guardian	7		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	15		14		13	
English Language Development	0		1		1	
Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)	30		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	0	2	3
1 to 2 years	37	44	44
3 to 5 years	63	49	45
Over 5 years	0	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	0	1	3
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0
White	89	91	92
Mixed (two or more) races	4	2	1
Other	7	3	2

*Question: What is your race?*

**Table 1.6**  
***Free or Reduced Breakfast or Lunch***

	School	% District	% State
Yes	26	22	34
No	70	77	64
Not applicable, not sure, decline to answer	4	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	7	15	15
10th Grade	37	30	31
11th Grade	30	31	30
12th Grade	37	34	33
Other	11	7	8
Ungraded	0	1	1

*Question: In what grade is your child?*

**Table 1.8**  
***Hispanic or Latino***

	School	% District	% State
No	92	87	83
Yes	8	13	17

*Question: Are you of Hispanic or Latino Origin*

**Table 1.9**  
***Multiple Children at School***

	School	% District	% State
Yes	74	69	66
No	26	20	21
Not applicable, not sure, or decline to answer	0	11	13

*Question: Do you have more than on 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	0	5	7	
Disagree	19	14	16	
Agree	52	48	54	
Strongly agree	19	28	18	
Don't know	11	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	0	6	9	
Disagree	15	15	17	
Agree	63	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	4	11	13
Disagree	19	17	18
Agree	69	49	48
Strongly agree	0	11	10
Don't know	8	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	4	4	7
Disagree	4	10	14
Agree	74	56	58
Strongly agree	15	28	18
Don't know	4	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	8	9	10
Disagree	8	18	22
Agree	58	48	47
Strongly agree	15	19	15
Don't know	12	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	4	2	3
Disagree	0	4	7
Agree	59	56	58
Strongly agree	26	34	29
Don't know	11	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	12	15	18
Disagree	8	18	20
Agree	65	40	39
Strongly agree	4	21	15
Don't know	12	6	8
Not applicable	0	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	0	3	5
Disagree	11	9	12
Agree	56	48	49
Strongly agree	11	17	12
Don't know	22	21	20
Not applicable	0	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	0	3	6
Disagree	11	13	14
Agree	52	49	47
Strongly agree	15	20	19
Don't know	22	14	14
Not applicable	0	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	0	2	4
Disagree	4	9	12
Agree	56	47	47
Strongly agree	4	13	10
Don't know	33	21	21
Not applicable	4	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	0	3	5	
Disagree	11	14	16	
Agree	63	52	49	
Strongly agree	7	20	16	
Don't know	19	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	0	3	5	
Agree	70	64	64	
Strongly agree	11	26	20	
Don't know	19	7	7	
Not applicable	0	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	0	6	11
Agree	67	55	56
Strongly agree	26	31	23
Don't know	4	4	4
Not applicable	0	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	0	4	6
Disagree	11	13	15
Agree	59	51	50
Strongly agree	19	19	16
Don't know	11	8	9
Not applicable	0	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	15	10	12
Disagree	7	17	19
Agree	48	39	38
Strongly agree	4	13	12
Don't know	26	18	17
Not applicable	0	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	0	11	12
Disagree	30	25	26
Agree	59	45	44
Strongly agree	7	18	17
Don't know	4	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	4	7	9
Disagree	11	14	19
Agree	52	51	50
Strongly agree	19	20	14
Don't know	15	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	0	9	11
Disagree	19	20	21
Agree	74	50	48
Strongly agree	7	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	4	6	11
Disagree	7	15	18
Agree	70	54	48
Strongly agree	11	19	17
Don't know	4	2	3
Not applicable	4	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	4	8	10
Disagree	12	18	22
Agree	65	53	49
Strongly agree	8	17	14
Don't know	8	4	4
Not applicable	4	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	11	7	6
Mild problem	37	24	21
Moderate problem	19	32	32
Severe problem	7	18	21
Don't know	22	17	18
Not applicable	4	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	16	11	10
Mild problem	32	29	25
Moderate problem	16	26	27
Severe problem	12	18	22
Don't know	24	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	11	18	13
Mild problem	41	33	30
Moderate problem	19	21	27
Severe problem	4	10	15
Don't know	26	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	44	40	32
Mild problem	19	20	22
Moderate problem	11	7	11
Severe problem	0	2	5
Don't know	22	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	31	19	16
Mild problem	19	27	24
Moderate problem	31	19	22
Severe problem	0	11	16
Don't know	19	21	20
Not applicable	0	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	52	50	42
Mild problem	15	10	10
Moderate problem	0	2	4
Severe problem	0	0	2
Don't know	30	31	34
Not applicable	4	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	44	44	34
Mild problem	19	17	20
Moderate problem	0	4	7
Severe problem	0	1	3
Don't know	30	30	31
Not applicable	7	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	33	27	22
Mild problem	26	25	23
Moderate problem	0	10	13
Severe problem	0	5	7
Don't know	37	30	31
Not applicable	4	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	15	8	6
Mild problem	22	21	17
Moderate problem	26	32	31
Severe problem	22	20	28
Don't know	15	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	11	16	12
Mild problem	30	29	26
Moderate problem	33	24	28
Severe problem	0	9	16
Don't know	26	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	22	20	17
Mild problem	26	21	21
Moderate problem	7	12	15
Severe problem	7	4	6
Don't know	33	41	39
Not applicable	4	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	26	20	15
Mild problem	26	26	25
Moderate problem	15	15	19
Severe problem	0	8	11
Don't know	30	29	29
Not applicable	4	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	44	48	40
Mild problem	15	11	12
Moderate problem	0	1	4
Severe problem	0	1	2
Don't know	33	35	37
Not applicable	7	4	5

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