



Frequently Asked Questions (As of 10-5-16)

What is a climate survey?

School climate is the quality and character of school life, such as whether the school feels welcoming and safe and whether our families, students and staff feel like they belong. A climate survey is a tool to gather this information from a lot of individuals in a short amount of time.

Why should I take the Successful Schools Survey?

The Successful Schools Survey is a chance for PPS to hear from all families. The Successful Schools Survey is a chance to get the voices of thousands of families at once and provide results that will be shared with the community and school staff.

Who is taking the survey?

Parents/Guardians, students in 5th, 7th and 10th grades and all PPS school-based staff.

Why 5th grade, 7th grade and 10th grades?

We want to hear the experiences of students in K-5 and K-8 schools, middle schools and high schools. Grades 5th, 7th and 10th were chosen to guarantee we hear from the early, middle, and upper age students.

How do I take the survey and where do I get the survey?

- For Parents/Guardians: Online at www.pps.net; on paper from your school's front office; and in PDF form on www.pps.net (please note that you will have to print the survey to fill out from a PDF). Online surveys, paper surveys and PDF surveys will be available in all of our supported languages. On the first page of the online survey you can select your preferred language. Please return all paper surveys to your school's front office or to April Arevalo, System Planning and Performance, L2 BESC
- For Students and Staff, surveys will be given out during the winter.

Where did the survey come from?

The PPS Successful Schools Survey was a product of research, staff, Board Committee and community groups who adapted the California Healthy Kids Surveys to better reflect our population and needs as a district.

I'm a parent or guardian. How do I answer the questions?

For the Parent/Guardian survey, please answer the questions based on your own experiences with your school. If you have students at more than one school please fill out a survey for each Portland Public School your students currently attend.

Why are there gender and sexuality questions on all the surveys?

All students, families and staff must feel welcome, safe and supported at school so that they can thrive academically and socially. By asking gender identity and sexual identity questions we can gather information about their experiences and whether they feel welcome, safe and supported. Then we can use the information to help us better meet their needs.

Why would PPS need to know my age, gender, sexual orientation, race, and ethnicity?

We ask parents and guardians to provide this information because we want to hear about their individual experiences at their school. If a parent/guardian would like to tell us more about their or their student's experiences, feel free to write your response in question 60: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your school?

What will you do with my answers?

Survey results will be shared with the community and school staff and are intended to provide PPS administrators, principals and teachers with transparent, comprehensive information about the experiences of all families in our schools. Your responses are confidential and will never be linked back to you.

How were the last survey's results used?

You may view the results from the 2014-2015 survey online, <http://www.pps.net/Page/2519>. The results were used to address school specific interventions and needs assessments. They informed the Districtwide Boundary Review Committee about the need for middle school reconfiguration and were incorporated into the Board's metrics. The Mobile First initiative was developed in direct response to the Successful Schools Survey. PPS used the results to assess the experiences of males of color and LGBTQ students as well. We also used the results to identify where there may be specific challenges at certain schools and worked with school administrators to address these challenges. This survey is related to school improvement plans that Principals and site councils are required by the state to submit and monitor. School climate is one of the main areas included in school improvement plans. The results provided valuable feedback for Principals, teachers, staff and the district.

Who is administering the survey this year?

Portland Public School's System Planning and Performance department is administering the Parent/Guardian, Staff and Student Successful Schools Survey for the 2016-2017 school year.

Do I need a log in to take the Successful Schools Survey?

You do not need a log in for this year’s survey. You can access the survey through an anonymous link on www.pps.net

Is the survey secure?

We use Qualtrics online survey software for our online surveys. Qualtrics protects customer data using industry-best standards. Also, since the online surveys are anonymous we will not be collecting identifiable data. All reports will remove any identifying information and will only be shared at the school level if enough parents/guardians respond.

I am a Parent/Guardian and I do not have access to a computer or email address. How can I take the Successful Schools Survey?

The survey can be taken on a mobile phone, just click the survey link on pps.net.. Also, you can visit your school’s front office. They will have paper copies of the Parent/Guardian survey in English, Chinese, Spanish, Somali, Russian and Vietnamese.

I speak a language that is not one of the translated languages. How do I take the Successful Schools Survey?

The Parent/Guardian Successful Schools Survey is available in Chinese, Spanish, Somali, Russian and Vietnamese. For support in a language that is not available please contact the PPS Language Line at (503) 916-3589.

Language Lines	Phone Numbers
中文 Chinese	(503) 916-3585
Español Spanish	(503) 916-3582
Soomaaliga Somali	(503) 916-3586
Русский Russian	(503) 916-3583
Tiếng Việt Vietnamese	(503) 916-3584
Other Languages	(503) 916-3589

CONTACT INFORMATION

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