**Climate Survey FAQ**

1. What is school climate?

According to Panorama Education:

“School climate is an important lever for improving school safety, the quality of teaching and learning, and the strength of relationships in your school or district. Collecting feedback from families, students, and teachers and staff through a school climate survey is essential to building the strong, welcoming relationships that are integral for school and district success.”

“School climate is a collection of attributes that govern how students, families, faculty, and staff relate to each other and the school itself. A strong and vibrant school climate can be developed and strengthened over time by understanding the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of members of your community.”

Source: <https://www.panoramaed.com/blog/school-climate-survey>

“NSCC (National School Climate Center) defines school climate as the quality and character of school life. School climate is based on patterns of students', parents' and school personnel's experience of school life; it also reflects norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices, and organizational structures.
A sustainable, positive school climate fosters youth development and learning necessary for a productive, contributory, and satisfying life in a democratic society.”

“A positive school climate includes:

* Norms, values, and expectations that support people feeling socially, emotionally, and physically safe
* People are engaged and respected
* Students, families, and educators work together to develop and contribute to a shared school vision
* Educators model and nurture attitudes that emphasize the benefits and satisfaction gained from learning
* Each person contributes to the operations of the school and the care of the physical environment”

Source: <https://www.schoolclimate.org/about/our-approach/what-is-school-climate>

1. What is Utah’s Climate Survey and what is its purpose?

“School Climate Survey” or “climate survey” means a survey that evaluates a range of aspects of the educational environment to assess perceptions and identify specific strengths and weaknesses within a school.” (Source: USBE R277-623-2)

1. Why is USBE administering a school climate survey for the state?

In House Bill 120: Student and School Safety Assessment Bill, the State Board of Education was directed to develop an anonymous School Climate Survey to be administered to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and school resource officers. A school climate survey is to be administered every other year. Although respondents are not compelled by the bill to complete the survey, each LEA is required to administer the survey to each school with sample sizes of 35% or 400 students, whichever is less. These numbers represent the distribution sample at the school level.

The USBE Board rule (R277-325) states that the survey must be administered at least once every other year and in the opposite year from administration of the public education exit and engagement surveys.

**Survey Structure and Administration**

1. How many different surveys are there?

There are three student surveys for grades K-2, grades 3-5 and grades 6-12. There is one adult survey broken up into multiple survey blocks covering School Administrators, School Staff (all employees and contractors of the school), parents and SROs (school resource officers)

1. How long is the survey?

The time to complete the survey will vary depending on the respondent type. The estimated time to complete is between 2-10 minutes. Teachers should set aside 20 minutes of class time for administration of the student surveys. The following breaks down the estimated average time to complete:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Respondent** | **Avg. Time to Complete** |
| Grades K-2 | 2 minutes |
| Grades 3-5 | 5 minutes |
| Grades 6-12 | 6 minutes |
| Administrator | 8 minutes |
| School Staff | 10 minutes |
| Parent | 6 minutes |
| SRO | 4 minutes |

1. How many questions are there for each respondent type?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Respondent** | **Number of Questions** |
| Grades K-2 | 12 questions |
| Grades 3-5 | 20 questions |
| Grades 6-12 | 44 questions |
| Administrator | 54 questions |
| School Staff | 52 questions |
| SRO | 20 questions |
| Parent | 33 questions |

\*\**Please note: The number of questions may be more depending on how many new questions are added by LEA administrators.*

1. How should LEAs administer the survey?

For all surveys, use anonymous links in Qualtrics. For student surveys, survey should be administered in-classroom with teacher or aide using the provided script. Administration of the survey could be done in an in-school computer lab or on school tablets. For adult surveys, administration of survey could be done via email, SMS, Post link on employee intranet on available school computers/tablets for respondents to use.

1. How long should the surveys be open?

For the adult survey, distribute the survey to all adult audiences in the same week and leave them active for the same amount of time. It is recommended that the adult survey be open during the six-week window from March 17 to May 7.

For the student surveys, teachers should set aside ~20 minutes of class time for administration of the survey. Teachers must follow the required script provided by USBE.

1. Is the survey intended to only be completed by school specific personnel?

The survey is intended for school administrators, teachers, staff, and SROs at the school level only.

1. Does staff include those individuals contracted with our school or simply those who are hired on as employees of our school?

Staff includes all individuals contracted or hired on as employees of schools.

1. Is it okay for teachers to read the survey to students?

Surveys need to be given during class time so that a teacher can help students with vocabulary/understanding what a question is asking. Also, teachers will have a script that they need to read before students may take the survey. This will be sent out prior to the opening of the survey window.

1. Is it required that the survey responses within a grade band be proportional across the grades? For example, for the K-2 grade band, can we have 10% responses from Kindergarten, 40% from 1st grade and 50% from 2nd grade?

It is not required. However, we recommend that you have a good response rate of each grade for the grade band.

1. Do I need to submit more than one parent survey if I have multiple children at the same school?

No, the survey is measuring school climate not individual classroom climate.

1. Will USBE provide the surveys in languages other than English?

USBE will be providing a Spanish survey ONLY for the parent respondents.

1. Do LEAs need to use opt-in and opt-out forms?

LEAs need to use the opt-out form provided by USBE.

**Survey Data and Qualtrics**

1. How will the results from the survey be valuable to LEAs?

The data from the survey can be used for local action. LEAs will be able to understand their performance relative to the state’s aggregate performance and identify learnings. The survey data will help evaluate a range of aspects of the school environment to assess perceptions and identify specific strengths and weaknesses within a school. With the school data, schools can develop, build, and strengthen their own school climate.

1. Why do I have to share any data back with USBE? How will the data from my LEA be used?

USBE will use this data to understand trends across the state and inform improvement efforts.

1. Do we need to administer the USBE climate survey if our LEA already sends out a climate survey?

Yes, this climate survey is required by legislation and must be administered on alternating years with the mandated Educator Engagement survey. An LEA created survey does not fulfill the requirements set in HB120 or R277-325.