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About the Survey

What does the PSES measure?

The PSES is administered to five groups (students, parents & guardians, teachers, support staff, and principals/assistant principals) to measure six key topics related to school improvement:

1. **School Climate:** Areas affecting the school environment, including relationships, safety, and learning challenges.
2. **Instructional Environment:** Engagement and perceptions of teaching and learning quality.
3. **School Leadership:** Management practices, communication, and autonomy perceptions.
4. **Professional Capacity:** Collaboration, professional development quality, and support for innovation.
5. **Family Engagement:** Outreach, communication, and parental involvement.
6. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Addressing race, ethnicity, and culture to ensure inclusivity and fairness.

Additionally, each of the six main topics comprises subtopics that can be used for a closer look at specific areas where leaders and stakeholders might target their attention. For many (but not all) topics, the surveys ask similar questions of multiple respondent groups (e.g., teachers, students, and parents/guardians) to allow comparison of different views. Visit philasd.org/pses and select "Technical Reports" to view a complete list of survey topics and subtopics by respondent type.

How was the current PSES designed?

The PSES is based on research on effective schools and school reform, especially by Anthony Bryk and colleagues at [The University of Chicago Consortium on School Research](https://www.chicagoresearch.org/). It was developed by the SDP Office of Research and Evaluation in collaboration with Penn GSE.

Where can I see all the PSES questions?

Visit philasd.org/pses and select "Survey Archive" to access all past surveys for parents/guardians, teachers, students, staff, and principals.

Taking the Survey

Who takes the PSES?

The PSES is available to students (grades 3-12), parents/guardians (K-12), teachers, support staff, and principals and assistant principals in Philadelphia public schools (District and Charter). See the complete list of eligible staff positions in 2024-25 [here](#).

Do teachers and staff working at multiple District schools take the survey?

The survey is intended for teachers and staff assigned to work at a single school, although some who serve at three schools or fewer may be invited to take the survey. In these cases, teachers and support staff should only take the survey once, for the school they know best.

Now that the parent/guardian survey is anonymous, how do we ensure that families are taking it for the right school?

Parents/guardians select their student's grade and school name when completing the survey. An automated message confirms their selection, and the survey alerts them if the school doesn't match the grade level or if the school name is commonly confused with another.

Now that the parent/guardian survey is anonymous, how do we ensure that families are not taking it more than once?

Since 2022-23, the survey has been anonymous, which may result in some duplicate responses. However, due to the time needed to complete it, the number of duplicates remains low. School staff should remind families to only complete the survey one time for their school.

Do I need my child's student ID to take the parent/guardian survey?

No. Parents and guardians *do not* need student IDs to complete the PSES.

I am a parent/guardian with multiple children in Philly public schools; should I take the survey for each of them?

Complete one survey per school that your children attend. If multiple children attend the same school, complete the survey once for that school.

For children with multiple parents or guardians, do all parents and guardians need to take the survey?

Only one parent or guardian should complete the survey for each school attended.

I received a paper copy of the Parent/Guardian survey—can I still take it online?

Yes! If you take the survey online, discard the paper copy.

I am a teacher/staff member at a Charter or contracted Alternative school and never received an email with the survey link. What should I do?

Please contact the PSES team at schoolsurveys@philasd.org or call 215-400-6565 to verify that you were included in the staff list for your school.

What is the Student Well-Being Survey (SWBS) and why do students take it at the same time as the PSES in the spring?

The [Student Well-Being Survey \(SWBS\)](#) is a 5-minute survey for students in grades 3-12, administered three times per year. The spring SWBS is combined with the PSES for efficiency.

I am having trouble taking the PSES. Who do I contact?

Contact the PSES team at schoolsurveys@philasd.org or call 215-400-6565 for assistance.

Supporting Survey Participation

How is parent and guardian participation in the survey encouraged?

Schools receive training and promotional resources, and we offer incentives like a \$25 gift card raffle for online survey

completion. Paper copies and return envelopes are also provided, and participation rates are tracked and shared with Assistant Superintendents.

Can parents/guardians enter the online gift card raffle multiple times if they complete the survey for multiple schools that their children attend?

Yes, but parents are only eligible to win once.

Can schools get information about which parents have participated in the survey for eligibility for school-specific incentives, like raffles?

The survey is *anonymous*. Parents may disclose participation to their school if they choose and can save the last page of the survey as evidence.

How can I track response rates? How often is the data refreshed?

A tracker, refreshed daily, is available on our PSES results dashboard at philasd.org/psesresults during May and June.

What responses are included in the live response rate tracker?

The tracker excludes duplicate responses and is updated regularly, though additional data cleaning may adjust final counts after surveys close.

What are the minimum response thresholds for reporting school results?

Data is reported only for schools meeting the minimum response rate thresholds to ensure privacy and data quality. For the 2024-25 school year survey, the minimum response rate thresholds are:

- Parent/Guardian Survey: 15% (of total households) and at least 5 responses
 - Student Survey: 30% and at least 5 responses
 - Teacher Survey: 30% and at least 5 responses
 - Support Staff Survey: 30% and at least 5 responses
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Survey Results

Where can I find survey results?

The [PSES results dashboard](#) provides a comprehensive view. For individual questions, use the “Question Explorer” tab, and for school-level reports, download printable [PDF reports](#).

How do you keep results private?

Parent/guardian responses are completely *anonymous*, while all other responses are *confidential*. Surveys are managed by SurveyMonkey, which ensures secure data transmission. Our survey [Code of Ethics](#) governs survey practices, and all data is de-identified and aggregated at the school level.

Will anyone follow up on my survey responses?

No individual follow-up occurs due to confidentiality. Survey data guides general school improvement efforts and informs offices like Food Services on student feedback. Parents needing help with specific issues can find support for resolving concerns on the [FACE website](#).