

Students continue to report a positive school climate

Student Climate Survey results Spring 2013 through Spring 2015

76% of students say they will go to college after high school.



What is the purpose of the student climate survey?

To assess students’ perceptions of behavioral environment, adult fairness and respect, student engagement, academic self-confidence, and teacher expectations, the Austin Independent School District’s (AISD) administers the Student Climate Survey. This report summarizes district results from Spring 2013 through Spring 2015. Students’ favorable responses (e.g., the percentage of students who responded *a lot of the time* (4) and *sometimes* (3) to each item) are included in this report. Campus reports are available on the Department of Research and Evaluation’s (DRE) [website](#).

How did students rate school climate in 2015?

Elementary school students’ responses were more favorable than middle and high school students’ responses. The following tables display the percentage of students’ favorable responses (e.g., the percentage of students responding *a lot of the time* and *sometimes*) to each item.

Student engagement

Table 1
Most students surveyed in Spring 2015 report feeling engaged in their schoolwork.

Student engagement	Elementary			Middle			High		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
9. I like to come to school.	83%	83%	83% ^{a,b}	70%	68%	69% ^a	68%	68%	69% ^b
17. I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	81%	81%	81% ^{a,b}	59%	58%	60% ^a	56%	57%	58% ^b
24. My homework helps me learn the things I need to know.	89%	88%	88% ^{a,b}	74%	72%	74% ^a	72%	73%	72% ^b
25. My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	86%	86%	84% ^a	71%	70%	71% ^a	67%	68%	68% ^a
26. I have fun learning in my classes.	88%	88%	88% ^{a,b}	68%	68%	71% ^a	67%	69%	69% ^b
28. My teachers connect what I am doing to my life outside the classroom.	81%	82%	80% ^{a,b}	58%	58%	60% ^a	59%	60%	59% ^b
37. I receive recognition or praise for doing good work.	89%	88%	88% ^a	74%	74%	75% ^a	71%	72%	73% ^a

Source. Spring 2013 through Spring 2015 Student Climate Surveys.
Note. Response options ranged from 1 = *never* to 4 = *a lot of the time*. Percentages reflect students who selected 3 = *sometimes* or 4 = *a lot of the time*. Percentages sharing the same superscript within item are significantly different (p < .05) using the z-test for proportions.

Behavioral environment

Table 2

62% of surveyed middle school students believe students are bullied at their school at least sometimes.

Students surveyed report feeling safe at school and happy with how their classmates treat them.

Behavioral environment	Elementary			Middle			High		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
1. My classmates show respect to each other.	87%	88%	88% ^a	77%	79%	81% ^a	84%	86%	86% ^a
2. My classmates show respect to other students who are different.	83%	85%	84% ^a	73%	75%	79% ^a	80%	83%	83% ^a
3. I am happy with the way my classmates treat me.	84%	86%	85% ^a	85%	86%	87% ^a	89%	90%	90% ^a
13. Students at my school follow the school rules.	80%	81%	82% ^a	58%	61%	63% ^a	65%	71%	70% ^a
14. I feel safe at my school.	91%	91%	91% ^a	82%	82%	84% ^a	84%	86%	86% ^a
15. Students at this school treat teachers with respect.	88%	90%	89% ^a	68%	71%	73% ^a	74%	80%	79% ^a
29. My classmates behave the way my teachers want them to.	75%	77%	77% ^a	57%	60%	64% ^a	68%	73%	72% ^a
30. Our classes stay busy and do not waste time.	82%	83%	83% ^a	68%	70%	74% ^a	78%	79%	78% ^a
31. Students at my school are bullied (teased, taunted, threatened by other students).	48%	49%	54% ^a	63%	65%	62% ^{a,b}	51%	52%	55% ^b

Academic self-confidence

Table 4

Students surveyed in Spring 2015 report favorable ratings of their academic motivation.

Academic self-confidence	Elementary			Middle			High		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
16. I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	92%	92%	92% ^{a,b}	85%	84%	86% ^a	85%	84%	85% ^b
18. I am/was well prepared to take the TAKS/STAAR.	94%	90%	90% ^a	85%	83%	84% ^a	80%	81%	82% ^a
19. I try hard to do my best work.	98%	98%	97% ^a	91%	92%	92% ^a	88%	89%	89% ^a
22. I feel successful in my schoolwork.	93%	93%	92% ^a	86%	86%	87% ^a	83%	83%	84% ^a
23. I can reach the goals I set for myself.	93%	93%	93% ^a	89%	88%	90% ^a	88%	88%	88% ^a

Statistical and meaningful differences

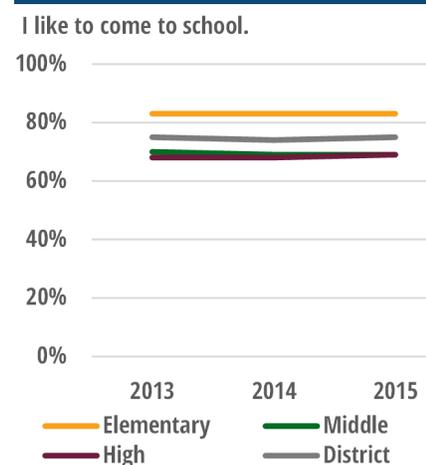
We used z-test for proportions to determine whether the observed differences between students' responses based on school levels were likely due to chance or were real differences. Significant differences are noted with superscripts in this report.

We used Cohen's *h* measure of effect size to determine whether the magnitude of a change from year to year was meaningful. Effect sizes greater than or equal to .20 are considered meaningful in educational research and are noted with up or down arrows in this report.

About this survey

AISD students in grades 3-11 have participated in the annual Student Climate Survey since 2004. To ensure students are asked the most critical questions concerning their perceptions of school environment, the survey has been revised over the years. In 2015, 27 campuses administered the survey online.

Students continue to report they like to come to school.



Adult fairness and respect

Table 2

Students surveyed in Spring 2015 felt cared for and respected by their teachers.

Students surveyed also report that adults on their campus are fair and treat students with respect.

Adult fairness and respect	Elementary			Middle			High		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
4. Teachers at this school care about their students.	98%	98%	97% ^{a,b}	87%	87%	89% ^a	86%	88%	88% ^b
5. Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions.	92%	92%	92% ^{a,b}	78%	78%	80% ^a	77%	80%	80% ^b
6. Adults at this school treat all students fairly.	93%	94%	94% ^{a,b}	79%	80%	82% ^a	78%	81%	80% ^b
7. The staff in the front office show respect to students.	97%	97%	97% ^a	89%	89%	90% ^a	84%	86%	85% ^a
8. There is at least one adult at my school who I would go to if I had a problem.	88%	87%	87% ^a	78%	78%	80% ^a	77%	77%	77% ^a
10. The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for everyone.	88%	89%	89% ^a	81%	81%	82% ^a	78%	81%	81% ^a
11. My teachers make sure the students follow the rules.	98%	98%	98% ^a	89%	89%	90% ^a	85%	88%	88% ^a
21. My teachers like to teach.	98%	98%	98% ^a	88%	89%	90% ^a	87%	88%	89% ^a
27. My teachers are fair to everyone.	93%	94%	94% ^{a,b}	78%	80%	81% ^a	78%	82%	81% ^b
32. When bullying is reported to adults at my school they try to stop it.	93%	94%	94% ^a	80%	81%	83% ^a	79%	82%	81% ^a
36. Teachers at this school know who I am.	92%	92%	92% ^a	85%	86%	87% ^a	82%	83%	82% ^a
38. My teachers know what I am good at.	n/a	95%	94% ^a	n/a	83%	84% ^a	n/a	81%	81% ^a

Teacher expectations

Table 5

Students surveyed in Spring 2015 report that teachers have high expectations for their learning.

Teacher expectations	Elementary			Middle			High		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
12. My teachers believe I can learn.	98%	98%	98% ^a	89%	89%	93% ^a	85%	88%	92% ^a
20. My teachers believe I can do well in school.	98%	98%	98% ^a	91%	91%	93% ^a	90%	91%	91% ^a
33. My teachers expect me to think hard about the things we read.	92%	98% [↑]	97% ^a	83%	88%	90% ^a	81%	88%	89% ^a
34. My teachers expect everybody to work hard.	93%	99% [↑]	98% ^a	89%	92%	93% ^a	85%	91%	91% ^a
35. My teachers expect my best effort.	98%	98%	98% ^a	92%	93%	94% ^a	90%	92%	91% ^a

College intentions

Table 6

At least three-quarters of students surveyed believe they will go to college after high school.

I will go to college after high school.	Elementary			Middle			High		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
% Yes	78%	77%	76%	75%	75%	76%	76%	75%	75%
% No	2%	2%	1%	3%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%
% Maybe	20%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	20%	22%	22%

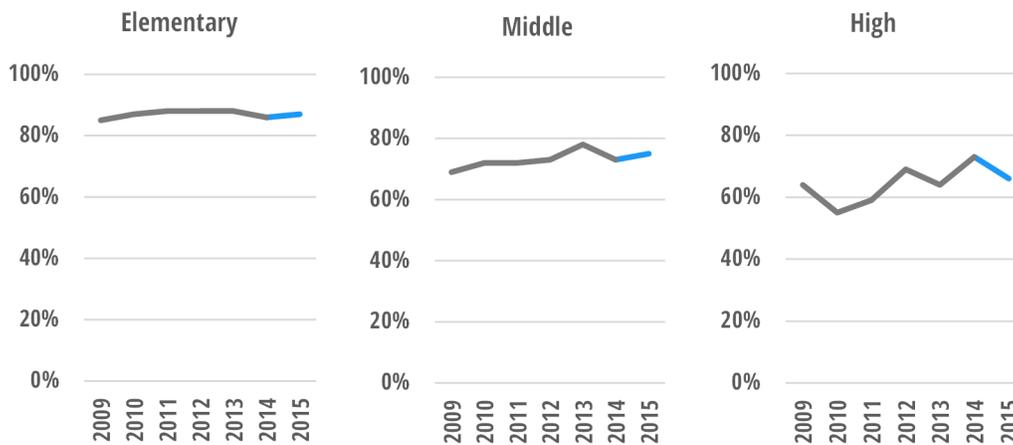
Who responded to the survey?

Consistent with response rates from previous years, in Spring 2015, 76% of AISD 3rd- through 11th-grade students completed the Student Climate Survey ($n = 40,221$). 19% ($n = 7,563$) of students completed the survey online.

Figure 1

Elementary school response rates continued to be higher in Spring 2015 than response rates for both middle and high schools.

Two thirds of high school students responded to the survey.



Source. Spring 2009 through Spring 2015 Student Climate Surveys.

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