YouthTruth
STUDENT SURVEY
A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

Design & Methodology

Family and Staff Surveys

2017

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Background

YouthTruth is a national nonprofit that harnesses student and stakeholder perceptions to help educators accelerate improvements. Through validated survey instruments and tailored advisory services, YouthTruth partners with schools, districts, states, and educational organizations to enhance learning for all students. Founded in 2008 by the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP), YouthTruth began as a tool for gathering feedback from students. During the 2015-16 school year, in response to increasing demand from our partners, we embarked on a year-long process to develop, test, and refine survey instruments designed to gather family and staff feedback. Further information about the YouthTruth Student Surveys is detailed here.

After gathering candid survey feedback from students, family, and staff members, we rigorously analyze and report on the resulting quantitative and qualitative data in a robust, online interactive reporting platform. Through these services, YouthTruth surveys provide a cost-effective, rigorous, and meaningful way to inform data-driven practices, school improvement plans, and targeted professional development.

To learn more about the Student Survey, please refer to our Student Survey Design & Methodology report.

This document provides an overview of YouthTruth's Family Survey and Staff Survey, designed as companion surveys to the YouthTruth student surveys, including:

- Survey development, design, and administration,
- Data processing and analysis procedures,
- Data reliability and validity, and
- Findings from existing survey data.

This document is designed for district and school leaders, researchers, program evaluators, and other parties interested in using validated student and stakeholder survey instruments to help districts, charter networks, and schools better understand, improve and/or evaluate the effects of programs, professional development, or interventions.

Finally, this document shares YouthTruth's Family Survey and Staff Survey instruments. Please note that survey content cannot be used without the expressed permission of YouthTruth.

Value of Stakeholder Surveys

The perceptions of beneficiaries and stakeholders are critical factors in evaluating the effectiveness of systems, programs, and interventions. Recently, there has been growing interest in making better use of beneficiary and stakeholder perceptions in program improvement.[1] The use of stakeholder perception data – from family members and school staff, in this case – leads to a more nuanced understanding of organizational effectiveness.

Furthermore, inviting family members to share their perspectives and valuing their input can support family engagement efforts, which have been shown to contribute to a range of elements of student

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[1] Twersky, Fay, Phil Buchanan, and Valerie Threlfall. "Listening to those who matter most, the beneficiaries." *Stanford Social Innovation Review* 11, no. 2 (2013): 40-45.

achievement including increased attendance, improved grades and social skills.[2, 3]

Research suggests that efforts to improve school culture and student achievement should be informed by family and staff perceptions as well as student perceptions.[4, 5] Making informed decisions requires hearing diverse perspectives from these integral groups of stakeholders.

While test scores and teacher value-added measures can be useful in measuring overall performance, it can be difficult to act on these measures because they are often reported after the student has left the classroom and because they offer little guidance about *how* to improve. Feedback from family and staff members can serve as an actionable, real-time barometer of factors that influence student success.

Finally, in comparison to academic assessments or classroom observations, surveys are cost-effective and east to implement. For instance, some districts have found that surveys cost one-sixth as much to implement per pupil as classroom observations or value-added estimates.[6]

Survey History & Development

YouthTruth's Family and Staff surveys ask questions that focus on critical areas of school experience, as perceived by these two key stakeholder groups. YouthTruth began the development process for these companion surveys in fall 2015, prompted by growing demand over the years from our school and district/CMO partners. They expressed an interest in having survey tools
 to gather feedback from family and staff members in a way that would complement the student feedback they were receiving through YouthTruth. We spent a full year developing, testing, and refining the instruments, and formally launched our Family and Staff Surveys in fall 2016.

In developing our Family and Staff surveys, we sought to create instruments that could fill a unique space in the market by:

- Offering survey tools and robust reports that complement YouthTruth Student Surveys – asking some overlapping questions across stakeholder groups, but also allowing for divergent questions delving into the areas about which each stakeholder group has unique insights;
- Focusing primarily on feedback about family and staff members' direct experiences with their school, rather than asking them to report on what others are thinking or experiencing; and
- Focusing primarily on aspects of the school experience that administrators can improve or refine based on feedback, rather than focusing on questions about students' or families' lives outside of school.

In developing our pilot survey instruments, we completed a comprehensive review of the field of stakeholder surveys including more than 10 existing survey instruments. We used this review to inform the initial construct development, in addition to drawing on CEP's existing well-validated Staff Survey and YouthTruth's previous work with student surveys. We also referenced the "lifeworld" framework and

[2] Epstein, Joyce L. "Effects on student achievement of teachers' practices of parent involvement." *Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association*., 1984. Elsevier Science/JAI Press, 1991.

[3] Henderson, Anne T., and Karen L. Mapp. "A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement. Annual Synthesis 2002." *National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools* (2002).

[4] National Parent Teacher Association, "The Heart of the PTA: Parent and Family Involvement, 1993, Chicago.

[5] Mitchell, Mary M., Catherine P. Bradshaw, and Philip J. Leaf. "Student and teacher perceptions of school climate: A multilevel exploration of patterns of discrepancy." *Journal of School Health* 80.6 (2010): 271-279.

[6] Education First (2014). "Student Surveys: Measuring Students' Perceptions of Teacher Effectiveness." http://www.education-first.com/files/Strategies_for_Success_Student_Surveys.pdf

approach to school culture, community, and people.[7] Based on this review, as well as informal feedback from practitioners, we developed six preliminary constructs and conceptual definitions for the pilot family and Staff Survey instruments. Operational definitions (items) were developed along with a corresponding scaling technique. To align with the preexisting student survey, the Likert summated rating was selected as the scaling technique for both instruments.

Prior to fielding a pilot survey, we undertook a content validation process involving multiple stakeholders. Validity evidence was obtained from an analysis of the relationship between the content of the survey and the constructs they intend to measure. This evidence was collected through a judgmental review of the items. Content experts – including educational researchers, superintendents, principals, teachers, and parents – were asked to provide both structured and unstructured feedback on 1) the adequacy of the content coverage, 2) the clarity of the content coverage, 3) the relevance of the item content, and 4) the wording and structure of the items through a structured.[8] The results were also used to modify or remove problematic items identified by the content experts.

The resulting pilot survey instrument was tested in spring 2016. Fourteen schools participated in the Staff Survey pilot, yielding 312 responses, and 16 schools participated in the Family Survey pilot, yielding 885 responses. Throughout the pilot, we gathered feedback from district leaders, school leaders, and survey respondents about survey administration process and communication preferences.

In the final stage of the development process, we gathered evidence on the internal structure of the instrument and refined the instrument accordingly. The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing states that "analyses of the internal structure can indicate the degree to which the relationships among [survey] items and [survey] components conform to the construct on which the proposed [survey] score interpretations are based."[9] The evidence based on internal structure was gathered through exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses. Exploratory factor analysis helped to determine the factor structure of the instruments.

For both the Family Survey and Staff Survey, the results of the exploratory factor analysis were compared to the results of the judgment reviewed constructs. At the conclusion of the comparison, the constructs were refined. Confirmatory factor analysis helped to determine the final version of the instrument that was consistent and stable. The confirmatory factor analysis also provided an opportunity to collect evidence based on relationships to other variables (i.e. discriminant validity) as well as estimates of the subscale reliabilities.

Results of this analysis are detailed in Appendix Tables 3, 4 and 5. Appendix Tables 1 and 2 list all the questions of each survey.

Participating Schools

As a national nonprofit, YouthTruth operates with grant support and fee-for-service revenue. As a result, we do not administer surveys among a random or fully nationally representative sample of schools and, therefore, the comparative data should not be interpreted as representative of all U.S. schools, staff

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[7] Habermas, Jürgen. "The theory of communicative action, Volume 2: Lifeworld and system: A critique of functionalist reason." (1985).

[8] McCoach, D. Betsy, Robert K. Gable, and John P. Madura. "Instrument development in the affective domain." *Social and Corporate Applications: Springer* (2013).

[9] American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, & National Council on Measurement in Education, & Joint Committee on Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing. (2014). Standards for educational and psychological testing. Washington, DC: AERA.

members, or family members. Nonetheless, the comparative data include a diverse representation. Table 1, below, describes a range of school-level sample statistics from the Family Survey sample alongside a comparison of these indicators across the U.S. population of public schools. Table 2 describes a range of school-level sample statistics from the Staff Survey sample alongside a comparison of these indicators across the U.S. population of public schools.

The Family Survey and Staff Survey samples are comprised of many of the same schools. The Family Survey sample includes data from eight states, and the Staff Survey sample includes five states.

Compared to the U.S. population of schools, the Family Survey and Staff Survey have a larger proportion of large-city schools and a smaller proportion of rural schools.[10] In addition, both the Family Survey and Staff Survey have a larger proportion of medium-size schools and a smaller proportion of small-size and large-size schools.

Table 1. Family Survey School-Level Sample Statistics[11, 12]

		% of U.S. schools	% of sample	n*
Geography	Large city	12%	42%	67
	Small city	11%	9%	14
	Suburban	29%	27%	43
	Rural	49%	14%	23
School Size	Small	29%	15%	24
	Medium	41%	72%	116
	Large	30%	7%	13
School Type	High Poverty	22%	52%	83
	Early College	<1%	6%	10
	STEM	n/a	7%	11
	Project-Based Learning	n/a	11%	18
	Charter	5%	20%	32

*"*n*" is shorthand for "sample size" and will be used throughout this report. In this table it refers to the number of schools in each category of the YouthTruth sample.

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[10] The geographical designations are drawn from the National Center for Education Statistics locale codes and are as follows (for more information, please see: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/geographicLocale.aspx):
- Large city schools: school located in urbanized area and in a principal city with a population of >=250K
- Small city schools: school located in urbanized area and in a principal city with a population of <250K
- Suburban schools: school located in an urbanized area, but outside a principal city
- Rural schools: school located more than 10 miles from an urbanized area.

[11] Data on the U.S. public school population is drawn from the National Center for Education Statistics "Common Core of Data." U.S. Department of Education (2013). "Common Core of Data, 2010-2011." National Center of Education Statistics: http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/index.asp.

[12] Percentages in the following tables may not add up to 100% because information on some schools' geographic location, for instance, may not be available.

Table 2. Staff Survey School-Level Sample Statistics

		% of U.S. schools	% of sample	n
Geography	Large city	12%	42%	67
	Small city	11%	5%	8
	Suburban	29%	37%	59
	Rural	49%	7%	12
School Size	Small	29%	11%	17
	Medium	41%	72%	114
	Large	30%	17%	27
School Type	High Poverty	22%	52%	83
	Early College	<1%	1%	2
	STEM	n/a	10%	16
	Project-Based Learning	n/a	15%	24
	Charter	5%	14%	22

Survey Administration

We use a survey administration process that places the utmost emphasis on data accuracy and ease of administration. Because critical school improvement and professional development decisions are made based on YouthTruth survey data, survey validity is essential.

As complementary surveys, YouthTruth's Family Survey and Staff Survey are administered alongside the YouthTruth Student Survey so that feedback from multiple stakeholder groups are collected during the same time frame under similar conditions. Schools and districts may choose to administer the Family Survey, the Staff Survey, or both alongside the Student Survey.

The Family Survey is designed to be taken by one parent or guardian of each student at a given school. The Staff Survey is designed to be taken by all staff members at a given school. Staff are asked to indicate if they are part of "Support Staff" or "Instructional Staff" at the beginning of the survey. There is slight variation in the survey questions based on staff role type.

We offer standard two-week survey windows each month throughout the academic year, in which YouthTruth partners may participate. YouthTruth partners also have the option of creating their own custom survey window. Partners monitor their response progress – how many family members or staff members have completed the survey – throughout the survey window through a dashboard that updates survey response counts regularly. Both the Family Survey and Staff Survey are offered in English and Spanish, where the respondent can toggle between languages. Surveys can also be translated and programmed in other languages as a custom element of a client's survey upon request.

Family Surveys and Staff Surveys are taken online through a client-specific survey link. In order to ensure the integrity of responses, Staff Survey respondents are provided with a randomized, yet unique login code. For ease of administration, Family Surveys do not require login codes; they, however, are protected by a

CAPTCHA test to protect against non-human test-takers.[13]

Family Surveys and Staff Surveys can be administered online or in-person. Schools that opt for online administration typically disseminate the survey link and login code (if applicable) via email and allow respondents to complete the survey at their convenience. Schools that opt for an in-person administration may set up stations with instructions and appropriate technology to complete the survey while on campus. For example, staff members may take the survey during a staff meeting, and family members may take the survey during a school event such as teacher conferences.

Post-Survey Data Processing and Quality Control
When survey administration is complete, YouthTruth runs the collected survey data through a rigorous and standardized cleaning, checking, and aggregation process. Newly-collected survey data is cleaned and aggregated in our data management system and then folded into the larger comparative dataset.[14]

Survey Constructs, Validity, and Reliability

Factor analysis is a data reduction technique for examining the underlying structure of a dataset to understand how variables relate to one another.[15] We regularly perform factor analysis on respondent data to: (1) better understand the structure of these data, (2) organize our survey instruments, analysis, and reporting in a way that is analytically rigorous, and (3) group survey questions in a way that helps partners construct meaning from the data.

The factors identified through factor analysis represent a way to understand summary-level data about school experiences that would be difficult to assess by asking stakeholders about the summary themes directly. For example, it would not be advisable to ask respondents to rate a school's overall culture. However, by capturing stakeholder perceptions of the core elements of school culture — through specific questions about concepts family or staff members are in a position to observe — we can accurately aggregate these results into a measure summarizing school culture.

Six factors emerged in the factor analysis process for the Family Survey. These include: culture, school safety, engagement and empowerment, relationships, communication and feedback, and resources. Four factors were identified in the Staff Survey, including: culture and communication, engagement and empowerment, relationships, and professional development and support. Appendix Tables 1 and 2 list the questions included within each factor in each survey. Appendix Table 3 describes the reliability of factors, and Appendix Tables 4 and 5 describe each question's correlation to the overall factor, known as the factor coefficient.

The following definitions summarize the concepts described by the questions contained in each factor.

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[13] CAPTCHA, or Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart, is a response test used to determine if a user is human. In the Family Surveys, the tests asks users to type out letters seen in an image, or to type out words heard in an audio clip.

[14] The data cleaning process includes a number of tasks, including coding data, summarizing factor variables, and determining which missing data should be excluded from analysis.

[15] Specifically, we use principal factor analysis with oblique rotation to analyze variation in the data and identify a set of latent factors. We retained only factors that explained a substantial amount of variation in the data and grouped variables into a factor only if they were highly correlated with the overall factor itself. We retain only factors with Eigen values greater than 0.4 and include variables within factors only if the factor loadings are greater than 0.3. However, the majority of variables within a factor load at 0.5 or higher, with 30% of the factors loading at 0.7 or higher.

Table 3. Family Survey Factors

Culture:	Describes the degree to which families believe their school fosters shared goals, respect, fairness, and diversity.
School Safety:	Describes the degree to which families believe that their school is a safe place for students.
Engagement:	Describes the degree to which families are engaged in their school and empowered to influence decision making.
Relationships:	Describes the degree to which families experience positive relationships in their school based on respect, care and approachability.
Communication & Feedback:	Describes the degree to which there are open and effective lines of communication between families and schools.
Resources:	Describes the degree to which families believe that their school deploys the necessary resources to support students.

Table 4. Staff Survey Factors

Culture:	Describes the degree to which staff believe that their school fosters a culture of shared vision, respect, and effective communication.
Engagement:	Describes the degree to which staff feel engaged in their work and empowered to influence their schools.
Relationships:	Describes the degree to which staff experience positive relationships in their school based on respect, care and approachability.
Professional Development & Support:	Describes the degree to which staff receive meaningful feedback, have opportunities to grow professionally and feel supported in their work.

Discriminant Validity

A central aim of the survey development process was to construct a series of measures aimed at capturing distinct aspects of school experience for both families and staff members. Evidence for evaluating the success of the aim is commonly referred to as discriminant validity. For both the Family Survey and the Staff Survey, we hypothesized that the factors of interest would not be closely related. Appendix Tables 6 and 7 display the correlations among the factors in the survey instruments. With the correlations ranging between 0.479 and 0.665 in the Family Survey and 0.257 and 0.484 in the Staff Survey, these results suggests that there is acceptable discriminant evidence for all the specified factors.

Reliability Testing

In addition to factor analysis, we measure the internal consistency of both survey instruments' factors using a test of reliability known as Cronbach's alpha. Alpha is expressed as a number between 0 and 1, with a higher alpha indicating that the set of items in a factor are measuring the same construct.[16] Cronbach's alpha is a statistic used widely throughout education research to understand if test questions or survey

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[16] The following rule of thumb applies when interpreting the quality of constructs and their alphas. Excellent: >0.9; Good: 0.8-0.9; Acceptable: 0.7-0.8; Questionable: 0.6-0.7; Poor: 0.5-0.6; Unacceptable: <0.5. Kline, P. (1999). The handbook of psychological testing (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.

questions intended to measure a given construct are indeed measuring that construct.

We use this measure to confirm that the questions within each factor are adequately related to the underlying factor. Appendix Table 3 displays the alphas for each factor across both survey instruments. With Cronbach's alphas ranging between 0.87 and 0.96 in the Family Survey and 0.89 and 0.97 in the Staff Survey, these results indicate that the questions grouped within each factor are highly correlated with the factor and truly measure the constructs we intend to measure with them.

Reporting and Comparative Data

Overall Sample, Comparison Groups, and Subgroup Reporting

One of the primary values of using the YouthTruth surveys is that our reports present feedback within a comprehensive comparative context, including comparisons to the overall YouthTruth sample, a school's district, custom comparison groups, and a variety of family or staff subgroups. These comparative data allow clients to better understand the relative position of their ratings both within and beyond their school and district context. YouthTruth's comparative dataset is updated annually and contains the most recent decade's worth of data.

National Comparison

Although we do not claim to have a nationally representative sample of schools, we do have a robust dataset representing the experiences and perceptions of family members and staff from a wide range of environments, geographies, and school contexts. This comparative context informs participants' interpretation of their results, aiding educators and administrators to make improvements that are based on sound data. Within reports, results are displayed along a percentile scale so that clients can compare their own ratings to those of other participating schools.

District and School Type Comparisons

In an effort to make comparisons more contextually meaningful, we provide clients with the opportunity to compare their data to that of smaller subsets of participants with similar characteristics. For example, because most schools participate in the YouthTruth surveys alongside other schools within their local school district or network, most schools can compare their family and staff feedback to that of families and staff from other schools within their district.

We also offer a standard set of comparison groups that allow all partners to view the range of results received by subsets of schools meeting certain criteria related to poverty, school enrollment size, school type (STEM, Early College, etc.), and geography. These standard cohorts are listed in Table 5.[17]

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[17] Some cohorts are not available for some survey types and levels. The Elementary School Family Survey dataset does not include the "Small city schools" or the "STEM schools" comparison groups. The Elementary School Staff Survey does not include the "Small city schools" comparison group. The Middle School Staff Survey does not include the "Rural schools" or the "Small city schools" comparison groups. Finally, the High School Staff Survey does not include the "Early college schools" comparison group.

Table 5. Standard Cohorts	
High-poverty schools:	Greater than or equal to 70% of a district or school's students receiving free or reduced price lunch.
Small size schools:	Less than or equal to 300 students for high schools, less than or equal to 200 students for middle schools and less than 150 students for elementary schools.
Large size schools:	Greater than or equal to 1,200 students for high schools, greater than or equal to 800 students for middle schools and greater than or equal to 600 students for elementary schools.
STEM schools:	Schools utilizing a curriculum focusing primarily on science, technology, engineering, and math.
Early college schools:[18]	Schools that implement an early college model.
Large city schools:[19]	Schools located in an urbanized area and in a principal city with a population greater than or equal to 250,000.
Small city schools:	Schools located in an urbanized area and in a principal city with a population of less than 250,000.
Suburban schools:	Schools located in an urbanized area, but outside a principal city, or located inside an urban cluster that is no more than 10 miles from an urbanized area.
Rural schools:	Schools located more than 10 miles from an urbanized area or located in Census-defined rural territory.
PBL schools:	Schools utilizing project-based learning models as part of curriculum.
Charter schools:	Publicly funded, independently managed schools established under the terms of a charter with a local or national authority.

Other custom cohorts are available upon request. For example, YouthTruth can provide the cohort that includes comparative data for all schools in a given state, or all schools within a particular initiative.

Demographic Questions and Family and Staff Subgroup Analysis
Finally, all YouthTruth surveys ask respondents a variety of demographic and other questions at the end of the survey that allow for subgroup analyses. Family members can report the following information about themselves: race/ethnicity, gender, relationship with child, education level, free and reduced price lunch eligibility of child, primary language spoken at home, and child's year in school. Staff members can report the following information about themselves: race/ethnicity, gender, staff role, tenure at school, years of experience in role (support staff only), years of teaching experience (instructional staff only), and type of teacher training received (instructional staff only). Participants are not required to answer any questions they do not wish to answer.

These demographic questions in turn enable partners to view comparisons of differences in respondent perceptions across different subgroups within their reports. Subgroups containing fewer than five respondents are suppressed in reports to protect respondent confidentiality.

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[18] The "Early College" cohort is made up of only high schools and as a result is only available in High School level reports.
[19] The four geographic cohorts are defined based on collapsed categories using National Center for Education Statistics locale codes. For more information on NCES methodology, please visit: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/geographicLocale.aspx.

Custom Comparisons and Subgroups
Custom comparison groups and custom subgroup analysis can also be requested to facilitate partners'
understanding of family and staff experiences across different school types or participant characteristics.

Report Products
YouthTruth reports are delivered to clients through an online, interactive reporting system, which is
password-protected and uses bank-grade security. Reports are designed for each audience: district or
network leaders, school leaders, and other stakeholders (with sensitive information redacted).

Figure 1 contains an example chart from a YouthTruth report. This chart displays one question's data for a
sample school.

Figure 1. Sample YouthTruth Chart
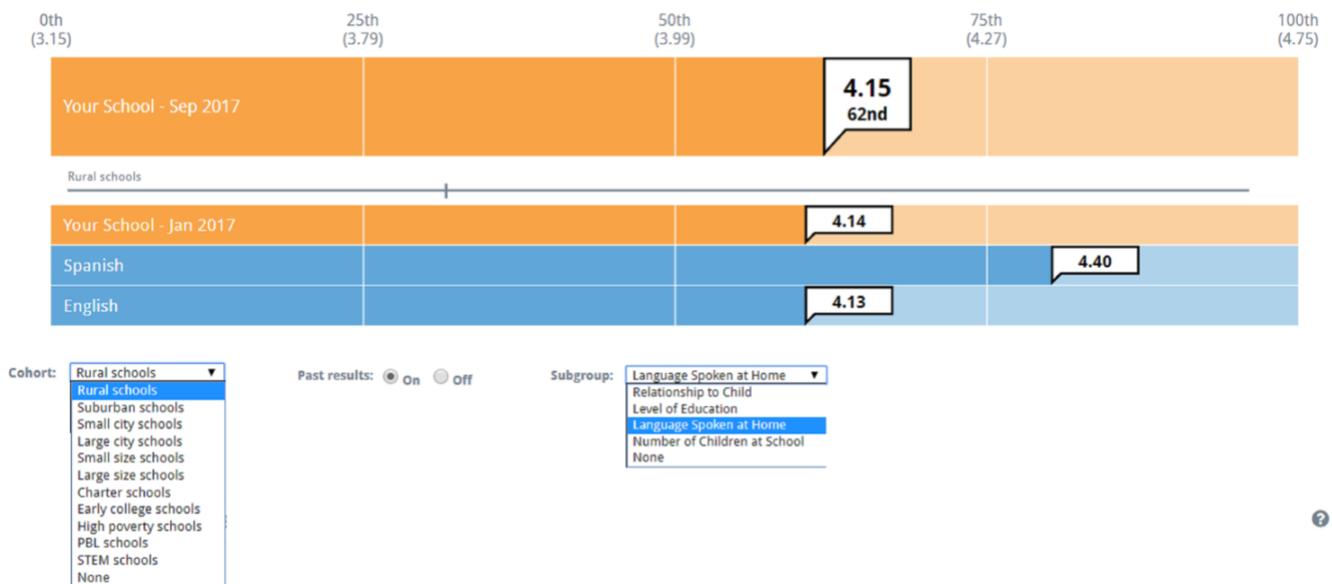
School Rating and National Comparison: The orange bar at the top of the chart sets this school's rating
in a comparative context: compared to all schools of the same level (elementary, middle, high) that
have participated in YouthTruth, this school's average rating of 4.15 places it in the 62nd percentile –
that is, the school received an average rating higher than that of 62 percent of other participating
schools. At the top of the chart, the numerical values in parentheses beneath quartile labels indicate
the average respondent rating associated with each quartile. In this sample chart, for example, the 25th
percentile is associated with an average student rating of 3.79.

Cohort Comparisons: The thin gray line below the top bar provides a second level of comparison. For
most clients, this bar will enable a comparison between a school and the district overall, assuming that
other schools from the district are also participating. The tick on the gray line represents the "typical"
or median school in that cohort, while the left and right-most ends of the line represent the lowest and
highest-rated schools in the cohort respectively. The user can also toggle the other comparison groups
identified in the previous section using the "Cohort" drop-down menu.

Subgroup Analysis: The remainder of the chart enables the user to make further comparisons with their

data alone. The blue section at the bottom of the chart contains a range of subgroup data described in the previous section, which the user may change using the drop-down menus. Figure 1 displays subgroups from a Family Survey report.

Trend Data: The second orange bar (in this example labelled "Your School – January 2017") allows clients to compare their current average rating to the average rating from previous rounds of surveying (as applicable).

District reports: Districts with more than one school at a given level will receive a District Report to help give an overview of all the schools' survey results. The calculations in these reports are similar to school reports but include every response from each school in the district. The average rating in a District Report is the mean of all respondents' responses in the district at that level. Individual schools show up as subgroups. Importantly, these calculations are not the same as the calculations for district cohorts in school reports which, like all other cohorts, display the "typical" or median school in the district.

Other Features: The online reports contain numerous other features, including an executive summary, narratives of results related to each summary measure, interactive charts for each summary measure and each survey question, perceptions of a school's strengths and areas for improvement, and a downloadable file containing indexed qualitative comments. The report can be easily downloaded as a PDF.

General Results: YouthTruth Aggregate Analysis and Descriptive Statistics

This section describes respondent sample statistics and general findings for the high school, middle school, and elementary school Family Survey and Staff Survey. The Family Survey data is based on respondents from over 9,500 family members at over 150 schools. Staff Survey data is from over 5,500 staff members at over 150 schools.

Sample Statistics
Table 6 provides respondent sample statistics for the family members who participated in a Family Survey and who are included in YouthTruth's comparative dataset. Table 7 provides the same information for the Staff Survey.

Table 6. Family Survey Respondent-Level Sample Statistics

		High School Sample	Middle School Sample	Elementary School Sample
n*		3,114	2,365	4,319
Gender	*Female*	54%	65%	66%
	Male	14%	15%	17%
	Identifies in another way	<1%	<1%	<1%
	Prefers not to say	5%	7%	4%
Race/ethnicity	*American Indian or Alaska Native*	<1%	<1%	<1%
	Asian	3%	13%	21%
	Black or African-American	8%	7%	11%
	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	18%	17%	17%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%	1%
	White	35%	46%	21%
	Multiracial	4%	3%	3%
	Other race/ethnicity	1%	1%	1%
	Prefers not to say	9%	14%	16%

*In this table and following tables *n* refers to the number of respondents in the dataset.

Table 7. Staff Survey Respondent-Level Sample Statistics

		High School Sample	Middle School Sample	Elementary School Sample
n		1,679	1,373	2,451
Gender	*Female*	40%	49%	71%
	Male	29%	22%	7%
	Identifies in another way	1%	<1%	<1%
	Prefers not to say	19%	22%	15%
Race/ethnicity	*American Indian or Alaska Native*	<1%	<1%	<1%
	Asian	1%	2%	4%
	Black or African-American	6%	15%	18%
	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	14%	11%	7%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%	<1%
	White	39%	34%	38%
	Multiracial	4%	2%	3%
	Other race/ethnicity	1%	1%	1%
	Prefers not to say	23%	29%	24%

Table 8. Elementary School Family Survey: Respondent and School Ratings

	Proportion of Positive Ratings[20]	Average Rating (Standard Deviation)		n	
		Family Members	Schools	Family Members	Schools
Culture:	86%	4.19 (0.77)	4.09 (0.36)	3,914	75
School Safety:	76%	4.06 (0.84)	3.95 (0.43)	3,905	74
Engagement:	77%	4.04 (0.81)	3.97 (0.37)	3,858	74
Relationships:	87%	4.25 (0.71)	3.46 (0.30)	3,876	74
Communication & Feedback:	80%	4.14 (0.84)	4.09 (0.35)	3,957	75
Resources & Facilities:	76%	4.06 (0.85)	4.01 (0.41)	3,934	74

[20] The proportion of positive ratings includes the proportion of respondents whose average rating across the related questions was greater than 3.5 out of 5.

Table 9. Elementary School Family Survey: Average Respondent Ratings by Subgroup
n = 4,319

		Culture	School Safety	Engagement & Empower-ment	Relation-ships	Communic-ation and Feedback	Resources & Facilities
Gender	*Female*	4.23	4.09	4.09	4.29	4.18	4.10
	Male	4.24	4.16	4.08	4.30	4.20	4.11
	Identifies in another way	4.10	4.09	3.98	4.07	4.19	3.88
	Prefers not to say	3.66	3.62	3.52	3.82	3.66	3.57
Race/ ethnicity	*American Indian or Alaska Native*	4.03	4.00	3.88	4.13	4.17	3.91
	Asian	4.27	4.19	4.12	4.31	4.20	4.11
	Black or African-American	3.98	3.85	3.89	4.06	4.01	3.94
	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	4.18	4.03	4.04	4.25	4.14	4.10
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4.46	4.31	4.39	4.50	4.33	4.33
	White	4.28	4.11	4.10	4.34	4.20	4.11
	Multiracial	4.34	4.10	4.11	4.38	4.24	4.16
	Other race/ ethnicity	4.25	4.19	3.99	4.31	4.14	4.01
	Prefers not to say	4.10	4.00	3.96	4.17	4.08	3.97

Table 10. Middle School Family Survey: Respondent and School Ratings

	Proportion of Positive Ratings	Average Rating (Standard Deviation)		n	
		Family Members	Schools	Family Members	Schools
Culture:	80%	4.04 (0.76)	3.97 (0.42)	2,055	43
School Safety:	70%	3.89 (0.88)	3.79 (0.50)	2,063	43
Engagement:	63%	3.79 (0.83)	3.74 (0.42)	2,024	43
Relationships:	81%	4.07 (0.71)	4.01 (0.38)	2,034	43
Communication & Feedback:	68%	3.85 (0.89)	3.84 (0.43)	2,090	43
Resources & Facilities:	73%	3.97 (0.83)	3.93 (0.44)	2,073	43

Table 11. Middle School Family Survey: Average Respondent Ratings by Subgroup
n = 2,365

		Culture	School Safety	Engagement & Empower-ment	Relation-ships	Communica-tion & Feedback	Resources & Facilities
Gender	*Female Male*	4.09	3.91	3.83	4.11	3.90	4.02
	Identifies in another way	4.06	4.00	3.83	4.09	3.94	3.96
	Prefers not to say	3.61	3.47	3.33	3.71	3.19	3.25
Race/ ethnicity	*American Indian or Alaska Native*	3.58	3.44	3.29	3.63	3.28	3.47
	Asian	3.30	3.33	3.13	3.77	3.00	3.42
	Black or African-American	4.13	4.12	3.95	4.13	4.06	4.04
	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	3.88	3.64	3.71	3.94	3.77	3.90
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4.09	3.94	3.91	4.12	4.00	4.07
	White	4.17	4.2	4.01	4.15	4.38	4.15
	Multiracial	4.08	3.89	3.75	4.10	3.78	3.96
	Other race/ ethnicity	4.13	3.93	3.80	4.14	3.81	4.08
	Prefers not to say	3.78	3.85	3.49	3.72	3.71	3.86

Table 12. High School Family Survey: Respondent and School Ratings

	Proportion of Positive Ratings	Average Rating (Standard Deviation)		n	
		Family Members	Schools	Family Members	Schools
Culture:	76%	3.98 (0.79)	4.02 (0.34)	2,483	42
School Safety:	68%	3.90 (0.87)	3.95 (0.37)	2,448	42
Engagement:	57%	3.66 (0.84)	3.70 (0.35)	2,414	42
Relationships:	77%	4.05 (0.74)	4.08 (0.32)	2,406	42
Communication & Feedback:	59%	3.71 (0.95)	3.81 (0.38)	2,504	42
Resources & Facilities:	66%	3.86 (0.89)	3.95 (0.36)	2,465	42

Table 13. High School Family Survey: Average Respondent Ratings by Subgroup
n = 3,114

		Culture	School Safety	Engagement & Empower-ment	Relation-ships	Communica-tion & Feedback	Resources & Facilities
Gender	*Female*	4.04	3.93	3.69	4.09	3.76	3.91
	Male	3.96	3.88	3.68	4.03	3.74	3.82
	Identifies in another way	3.83	3.80	3.50	3.97	3.45	4.03
	Prefers not to say	3.48	3.55	3.14	3.64	3.14	3.39
Race/ ethnicity	*American Indian or Alaska Native*	4.06	3.96	3.74	4.09	3.61	4.05
	Asian	4.11	3.98	3.86	4.20	3.91	3.97
	Black or African-American	3.93	3.83	3.69	4.01	3.82	3.93
	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	4.05	4.00	3.84	4.09	3.92	3.99
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3.74	3.64	3.46	3.70	3.82	3.79
	White	4.05	3.94	3.62	4.10	3.68	3.86
	Multiracial	4.13	3.98	3.84	4.16	3.88	3.97
	Other race/ ethnicity	3.90	3.78	3.48	4.05	3.59	3.74
	Prefers not to say	3.62	3.61	3.29	3.74	3.28	3.48

Table 14. Elementary School Staff Survey: Respondent and School Ratings

	Proportion of Positive Ratings	Average Rating (Standard Deviation)		n	
		Staff Members	Schools	Staff Members	Schools
Culture:	74%	3.91 (0.80)	3.93 (0.46)	2,255	83
Engagement:	80%	4.06 (0.72)	4.08 (0.34)	2,276	83
Relationships:	84%	4.09 (0.63)	4.10 (0.33)	2,261	83
Professional Development & Support:	73%	3.88 (0.72)	3.91 (0.33)	2,268	83

Table 15. Elementary School Staff Survey: Average Respondent Ratings by Subgroup
n = 2,451

		Culture	Engagement	Relationships	Professional Development & Support
Gender	*Female*	3.99	4.12	4.14	3.93
	Male	4.10	4.24	4.24	4.07
	Identifies in another way	4.16	4.27	4.22	4.32
	Prefers not to say	3.46	3.67	3.77	3.54
Race/ ethnicity	*American Indian or Alaska Native*	4.62	4.64	4.64	4.62
	Asian	4.21	4.24	4.28	4.09
	Black or African-American	3.98	4.12	4.05	4.02
	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	4.08	4.19	4.24	3.98
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3.77	4.04	4.08	3.76
	White	3.99	4.15	4.18	3.91
	Multiracial	4.04	4.14	4.14	4.04
	Other race/ ethnicity	4.03	4.28	4.28	4.10
	Prefers not to say	3.61	3.78	3.88	3.63

Table 16. Middle School Staff Survey: Respondent and School Ratings

	Proportion of Positive Ratings	Average Rating (Standard Deviation)		n	
		Staff Members	Schools	Staff Members	Schools
Culture:	63%	3.67 (0.80)	3.72 (0.49)	1,289	43
Engagement:	74%	3.90 (0.73)	3.97 (0.35)	1,299	43
Relationships:	79%	3.94 (0.61)	3.99 (0.34)	1,270	43
Professional Development & Support:	63%	3.68 (0.74)	3.77 (0.34)	1,283	43

Table 17. Middle School Staff Survey: Average Respondent Ratings by Subgroup
n = 1,374

		Culture	Engagement	Relationships	Professional Development & Support
Gender	*Female*	3.81	4.03	4.04	3.80
	Male	3.81	3.98	4.05	3.78
	Identifies in another way	3.04	3.60	3.36	3.46
	Prefers not to say	3.28	3.56	3.66	3.36
Race/ ethnicity	*American Indian or Alaska Native*	4.45	4.62	4.00	4.46
	Asian	3.96	4.13	4.13	3.94
	Black or African-American	3.90	4.08	4.05	3.98
	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	3.90	4.11	4.10	3.83
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3.86	4.00	3.97	4.00
	White	3.74	3.96	4.04	3.69
	Multiracial	3.72	3.98	3.98	3.73
	Other race/ ethnicity	4.13	4.36	4.38	4.15
	Prefers not to say	3.37	3.64	3.70	3.45

Table 18. High School Staff Survey: Respondent and School Ratings

	Proportion of Positive Ratings	Average Rating (Standard Deviation)		n	
		Staff Members	Schools	Staff Members	Schools
Culture:	57%	3.53 (0.80)	3.55 (0.42)	1,461	30
Engagement:	71%	3.85 (0.72)	3.89 (0.31)	1,474	30
Relationships:	78%	3.92 (0.59)	3.95 (0.26)	1,458	30
Professional Development & Support:	55%	3.54 (0.73)	3.59 (0.26)	1,462	30

Table 19. High School Staff Survey: Average Respondent Ratings by Subgroup
n = 1,679

		Culture	Engagement	Relationships	Professional Development & Support
Gender	*Female*	3.57	3.93	3.98	3.61
	Male	3.74	3.98	4.01	3.69
	Identifies in another way	3.17	3.30	3.46	3.25
	Prefers not to say	3.10	3.48	3.65	3.16
Race/ ethnicity	*American Indian or Alaska Native*	3.82	3.88	4.07	3.77
	Asian	3.83	4.16	4.01	3.82
	Black or African-American	3.65	3.87	3.93	3.75
	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	3.80	4.03	4.03	3.72
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3.89	4.11	4.06	3.76
	White	3.55	3.90	4.00	3.58
	Multiracial	3.73	4.03	3.92	3.69
	Other race/ ethnicity	3.52	3.75	3.96	3.54
	Prefers not to say	3.22	3.60	3.70	3.27

Appendix Table 1. Family Survey Questions

General
I would recommend this school to parents seeking a school for their child.
My child is getting a high quality education at this school.

Culture
My school is respectful of different races, ethnicities, genders, and backgrounds.
My school's policies are administered fairly and consistently.
My school runs smoothly.
I am proud of my school.
My school creates a friendly environment.
My school's employees are committed to the success of the school.
I understand my school's goals.
I believe in my school's mission.
Families and administrators care about each other.
I feel valued by my school.
Teachers are responsive to my concerns.

School Safety
My child is safe from bullying at school.
My child is safe from violence at school.
My school is safe place to learn.
Discipline in this school is fair.

Engagement
I feel empowered to play a meaningful role in decision-making at my school.
Parent/family groups (i.e. Parent-Teacher Association) make meaningful contributions to my school.
I have opportunities to contribute to helping my school.
I feel informed about important decisions regarding my school.
Parent/family members are included in planning school activities.
My school communicates a clear direction for the future.
I feel engaged with my school.
I feel represented by parent/family groups (i.e. Parent-Teacher Association) at my school.

Relationships
Families and teachers care about each other.
Families treat teachers with respect.
Teachers treat families with respect.
Families treat administrators with respect.
Administrators treat families with respect.
I feel comfortable approaching teachers about my child's progress.
I feel comfortable approaching the administration about my concerns.
Teachers and students care about each other.

Communication & Feedback
I receive information about what my child should learn and be able to do.
I receive regular feedback about my child's progress.
I feel informed about school policies.

Teachers clearly communicate expectations for my child's progress.

Resources
My school sets high expectations for students.
My school has the resources necessary to achieve learning goals.
My school has the resources necessary to prepare my child for the future.
My school provides the guidance necessary to help my child succeed.

In Their Own Words
What do you like the most about your school?
What is one area in which your school could improve?
Is there anything else you would like to share about areas where this school is doing well and/or areas where it could improve?

Appendix Table 2. Staff Survey Questions

General
I would recommend this school to a friend or colleague as a great place to work.
Students are getting a high quality education at this school.
I am not seriously considering leaving this school next academic year.

Culture
My school is respectful of different races, ethnicities, genders, and backgrounds.
My school's policies are administered fairly and consistently.
My school is managed effectively.
My school runs smoothly.
I feel informed about important decisions regarding my school.
My school creates a positive work environment.
My school communicates a clear direction for the future.
Discipline in this school is fair.
My school sets high expectations for students.
My school's employees are committed to the success of the school.
Information about school policies is disseminated to staff clearly.

Engagement
I feel proud of my school.
I feel empowered to play a meaningful role in decision-making at my school.
I feel that my work at my school is valued.
My work gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment.
My school empowers me to use creativity in how I do my work.
My job makes good use of my skills and abilities.
I understand my school's goals.
I feel that my work contributes to the goals of my school.

Relationships
Administrators treat staff with respect.
Staff treat administrators with respect.
Staff treat families with respect.
Families treat staff with respect.

Staff treat each other with respect.
Students treat staff with respect.
Staff treat students with respect.
Staff and students care about each other.
Staff and administrators care about each other.
Staff and families care about each other.
Teachers in my school work together to improve instructional practice.
I feel comfortable approaching the administration if I need help solving a problem.
I feel comfortable approaching other staff members if I need help solving a problem.
I feel comfortable speaking honestly to families about their child's progress.*
My school is cooperative and team-oriented.

Professional Development & Support
I have opportunities to learn at work.
I have opportunities to grow professionally at work.
My school supports me in implementing what I have learned in professional development.*
I have the necessary resources to do my job well.
My school encourages me to seek professional development opportunities to improve my practice.*
I have access to meaningful professional development.
My professional development over the last year has been closely connected with my school's priorities.
My professional development over the last year has provided me with teaching strategies to better meet my students' needs.*
My professional development over the last year has provided me with content support.*
I receive regular feedback from my supervisors.
I receive regular feedback from my colleagues.
The feedback I receive from my supervisors helps me improve my work.
The feedback I receive from my colleagues helps me improve my work.

In Their Own Words
What do you like the most about your school?
What is one area in which your school could improve?
Is there anything else you would like to share about areas where this school is doing well and/or areas where it could improve?

*Questions marked with an asterisk are asked only of instructional staff members.

Appendix Table 3. Reliability of Factor Variables

	Factors	Cronbach's Alpha
	Culture	0.96
	School Safety	0.90
Family Survey	Engagement	0.93
	Relationships	0.93
	Communication & Feedback	0.87
	Resources & Facilities	0.89
	Culture	0.97
Staff Survey	Engagement	0.92
	Relationships	0.92
	Professional Development & Support	0.89

Appendix Table 4. Overview of Factor Loadings: Family Survey

Questions	Factor Loading
Culture	
I feel valued by my school.	0.87
My school creates a friendly environment.	0.74
I believe in my school's mission.	0.76
My school's employees are committed to the success of the school.	0.79
Families and administrators care about each other.	0.84
My school's policies are administered fairly and consistently.	0.82
I am proud of my school.	0.88
Teachers are responsive to my concerns.	0.78
My school is respectful of different races, ethnicities, genders, and backgrounds.	0.79
I understand my school's goals.	0.81
My school runs smoothly.	0.86
Engagement	
I feel empowered to play a meaningful role in decision-making at my school.	0.86
Parent/family groups (i.e. Parent-Teacher Association) make meaningful contributions to my school.	0.69
I have opportunities to contribute to helping my school.	0.70
I feel informed about important decisions regarding my school.	0.80
Parent/family members are included in planning school activities.	0.80
My school communicates a clear direction for the future.	0.82
I feel engaged with my school.	0.85
I feel represented by parent/family groups (i.e. Parent-Teacher Association) at my school.	0.81
School Safety	
My child is safe from bullying at school.	0.87

My child is safe from violence at school.	0.83
My school is safe place to learn.	0.89
Discipline in this school is fair.	0.84

Relationships	
Families and teachers care about each other.	0.89
Families treat teachers with respect.	0.70
Teachers treat families with respect.	0.86
Families treat administrators with respect.	0.70
Administrators treat families with respect.	0.74
I feel comfortable approaching teachers about my child's progress.	0.75
I feel comfortable approaching the administration about my concerns.	0.77
Teachers and students care about each other.	0.85

Resources	
My school sets high expectations for students.	0.85
My school has the resources necessary to achieve learning goals.	0.78
My school has the resources necessary to prepare my child for the future.	0.82
My school provides the guidance necessary to help my child succeed.	0.81

Communication & Feedback	
I receive information about what my child should learn and be able to do.	0.81
I receive regular feedback about my child's progress.	0.76
I feel informed about school policies.	0.74
Teachers clearly communicate expectations for my child's progress.	0.87

Appendix Table 5. Overview of Factor Loadings: Staff Survey

Questions	Factor Loading
Culture	
My school is respectful of different races, ethnicities, genders, and backgrounds.	0.57
My school's policies are administered fairly and consistently.	0.73
My school is managed effectively.	0.82
My school runs smoothly.	0.80
My school creates a positive work environment.	0.77
Discipline in this school is fair.	0.67
My school's employees are committed to the success of our school.	0.64
My school sets high expectations for students.	0.77
I feel informed about important decisions regarding my school.	0.76
My school communicates a clear direction for the future.	0.82
Information about school policies is disseminated to staff clearly.	0.75
Engagement	
I am proud of my school.	0.84
I understand my school's goals.	0.76
I feel that my work contributes to the goals of my school.	0.74

I feel that my work at my school is valued.	0.73
I feel empowered to play a meaningful role in decision-making at my school.	0.69
My work gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment.	0.67
My school empowers me to use creativity in how I do my work.	0.76
My job makes good use of my skills and abilities.	0.76

Relationships

My school is cooperative and team-oriented.	0.83
Administrators treat staff with respect.	0.71
Staff treat administrators with respect.	0.69
Staff treat families with respect.	0.65
Families treat staff with respect.	0.67
Staff treat each other with respect.	0.71
Students treat staff with respect.	0.57
Staff treat students with respect.	0.59
Staff and students care about each other.	0.73
Staff and administrators care about each other.	0.82
Staff and families care about each other.	0.77
Teachers in my school work together to improve instructional practice.	0.74
I feel comfortable approaching the administration if I need help solving a problem.	0.67
I feel comfortable approaching other staff members if I need help solving a problem.	0.62
I feel comfortable speaking honestly to families about their child's progress.	0.51

Professional Development & Support

I have opportunities to learn at work.	0.79
I have opportunities to grow professionally at work.	0.87
My school supports me in implementing what I have learned in professional development.	0.87
I have the necessary resources to do my job well.	0.57
My school encourages me to seek professional development opportunities to improve my practice.	0.76
I have access to meaningful professional development.	0.84
My professional development over the last year has been closely connected with my school's priorities.	0.79
My professional development over the last year has provided me with teaching strategies to better meet my students' needs.	0.89
My professional development over the last year has provided me with content support.	0.84
I receive regular feedback from my supervisors.	0.71
I receive regular feedback from my colleagues.	0.57
The feedback I receive from my supervisors helps me improve my work.	0.68
The feedback I receive from my colleagues helps me improve my work.	0.51

Appendix Table 6. Staff Survey Factor Correlation Matrix

Factor	Culture	Engagement	Relationships	Professional Development & Support
Culture	1.000			
Engagement	0.270	1.000		
Relationships	0.387	0.484	1.000	
Professional Development & Support	0.257	0.331	0.442	1.000

Appendix Table 7. Family Survey Factor Correlation Matrix

Factor	Culture	School Safety	Engagement	Relation-ships	Communication & Feedback	Resources
Culture	1.00					
School Safety	0.64	1.00				
Engagement	0.65	0.59	1.00			
Relationships	0.60	0.54	0.57	1.00		
Communication & Feedback	0.63	0.56	0.67	0.57	1.00	
Resources	0.57	0.53	0.55	0.48	0.60	1.00