

Here's a sample message from a fictional elementary school principal:

Dear Crossroads Elementary School students,

We can only make our school a better place with your help. I am grateful that this year over **90%** of Crossroads students completed the YouthTruth survey. While we still have work to do, I want to thank you for your feedback and share some of what I learned from you through our YouthTruth reports.

I learned that we should all work on kindness as only **53%** of our students report that other students are friendly to them.

Here's a question that I have: How can I, as your principal, do a better job of letting each of you know that you are an important part of Crossroads?

I am proud that almost all of you, **93%**, think that your teacher cares about you.

I was surprised that only a little more than half of you, **58%**, feel like you have an adult at school you can talk to when you are upset.

Here are two quotations from your comments that I'm still thinking about:

"Students don't have a voice in this school. How can i care about something I have no part in?"

"Improvement in our school will come from within. If we want to do more fun stuff listen to the students' ideas."

I plan to follow up on our YouthTruth surveys by meeting with students from each grade level to ask for help in understanding our YouthTruth reports. I am also working with the Crossroads Student Senate to plan a Student Voice Workshop to get your input on setting goals for the coming year to make our school an even better, kinder, and more interesting place to come to school.

Thank you. I heard you. I appreciate your feedback!

Principal Elsbach