

Student Voice

Tell Them From Me Student Voice Surveys ...

About the program ...

All Grades 6 through Grade 12 students in the board completed school climate/student voice electronic surveys to provide information about their perceptions of their school and their learning experiences. Three thousand surveys were compiled and presented to school and system administrators who worked with staff and students to create a student voice/school action response plan to reconcile the differences between adult and student perceptions.

Samples of student feedback about the survey ...

“I think it was a good idea. The questions had to do with our personal way we look at school. I recommend that everyone do it. At least give it a try once.”

“I like that the survey is anonymous so I can tell the truth.”

“I like knowing what I think counts as much as the next person in such a big school.”

Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- The adult actions taken following the survey analysis led to improved student engagement which led to improved student achievement. The monograph, [Integrating Aboriginal Teaching and Values into the Classroom](#), complements these ideas.
- Marginalized and high-risk student groups took advantage of the opportunity to express their ideas and perceptions about school climate in relationship to the community.
- There were visible improvements in student attendance, greater credit accumulation, fewer suspensions and conflicts, and greater attention to student needs when school planning and decision-making were based on the realities of the student perceptions.
- Collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students increased respect among the students. There was also an increase in understanding of and respect for Aboriginal beliefs, such as the Seven Grandfather Teachings. These goals are also supported by the ministry’s [Ontario First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework](#).

Sample answer to “What do you like about our school? What does the school need to improve on?” ...

“I enjoy the student to teacher ratio and size of classes. Smaller classes are better for the student because the teacher is able to give more one-on-one time. The school should invest in more nutritious things for students to eat and drink.”

To find out more, contact ...

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