

Parents' Guide to the Learning Environment Survey – 2008-09

New York City families have great ideas about how to improve their schools. The annual Learning Environment Survey invites parents, teachers, and students to evaluate their schools based on the key aspects of their learning environments. Survey results are factored into school Progress Report grades. They also provide school principals with valuable information about what they can do to better serve their communities.

What does the Survey ask me about?

The Learning Environment Survey invites parents, teachers, and middle and high school students to evaluate four key aspects of their school environments:

1. Academic Expectations
2. Communication
3. Parent, Teacher, and Student Engagement
4. Safety and Respect

Over 800,000 parents, teachers and students—one in every ten New Yorkers—filled out the survey in 2008. Of those eligible, 55% responded. This amounts to the highest response for any survey on record other than the US Census.

How can Survey results help improve my school?

The survey provides principals and school staff with feedback from their school communities. The results of the Learning Environment Survey are shared with school communities through Survey Reports, which are available online and at schools. Based on these results, principals, teachers, and families work together to identify changes schools can make to improve student life. To make the survey as valuable as possible, the Department of Education created an online tool that will help schools and families compare their results with the results of similar schools, and identify solutions to common problems. This online tool will be available in September, 2008.

Next spring, families will again be invited to fill out surveys, which will arrive in bright green envelopes. For more information, please visit www.nyc.gov/schools/Surveys or e-mail us at Surveys@schools.nyc.gov.

How to access your school's Learning Environment Survey Report

To get a copy of your school's Learning Environment Survey Report, ask your parent coordinator.

To get your school's Survey Report online, please follow these steps:

1. Go to the New York City Department of Education Web site at www.nyc.gov/schools
2. Enter the school code or school name in the green section in the middle of the page where it says "FIND A SCHOOL." This will bring you to the school's Web page
3. Click on "Statistics," which is a link on the left side of the page

Click on the report you want to see and it will pop up. (You must have the free program Adobe Acrobat on your computer to view the report.) Translated guides for the Learning Environment Surveys are available at www.nyc.gov/schools/Surveys.