

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH AND DATA ANALYSIS

2013-2014  
SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEYS  
DISTRICT RESULTS  
SUMMARY

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## INTRODUCTION

School Climate Surveys of parents, students, and staff have been regularly administered in the Miami-Dade County Public School district since the early 1990s. The purpose of these surveys is to gather information regarding the perceptions of these groups about school and how the school can be improved. Results from several of the most recent years' surveys are available by school on the following website: <http://drs.dadeschools.net>.

In addition to providing information to the public, survey results are intended to assist schools in the identification of priorities for their plans to improve their schools and to better serve their stakeholders mainly students, parents, and staff.

### **Methodology**

Large stratified random samples of parents, and students were selected to participate in the annual School Climate Surveys.

All instructional staff at all schools were selected to participate in the School Climate Surveys.

In 2013-14, school climate surveys were distributed to representative samples of approximately:

- 93,000 parents
- 55,000 students, and
- 19,000 staff members (instructional staff at each school)

The parent survey was developed in three languages: English, Spanish, and Creole.

The staff surveys were administered online through anonymous unique user-id and password. The online survey is managed by a vendor outside M-DCPS to give further assurance to the staff that their responses are completely anonymous.

### **Validity**

The parent and student samples have been representative of the entire M-DCPS parent and student populations with regards to demographic variables, such as ethnicity and grade level. This is mainly due to following facts:

- Large populations to select from (Over 350,000 students);
- Random selections; and

- Large samples (93,000 parents, and 55,000 students)

All instructional staff at all schools were included in the survey.

The return rates (an important factor for the validity and representativeness of the responses) were high for all three stakeholders:

- 46,650 out of 92,867 parents responded (Return rate: 50.2%)
- 42,502 out of 54,635 students responded (Return rate: 77.7%)
- 15,024 out of 18,786 staff responded (Return rate: 79.9%)

### **What do the Climate Surveys measure?**

The opinions offered in the climate surveys represent anonymous and self-reported perceptions on the part of the stakeholders and may not precisely describe the actual situation at every school.

However, these opinions represent a reality to the respondents and should afford insight into the impression a school is making on the local community.

Results by school is especially important given the fact that there is a considerable variability among the M-DCPS schools with regard to demographic indicators, such as socio-economics, ethnicity, and geographic location.

### **Overall Summary Results**

Fifty percent of the parents who were surveyed in 2014 responded. Student returns was about 78 percent. The staff response rate was about 80 percent. Detailed school-level results were provided to the schools online. The primary purpose of these reports was to facilitate an in-depth view of the learning climate at each school. The present report represents a byproduct of those by-school reports and summarizes district wide results.

All groups were generally positive in their responses, as they have been in previous years, expressing general agreement with the survey questions. On average, parents and staff have a high percent of agreement with the questions expressing a high degree of satisfaction with their schools.

## 2013-2014 STAFF RESPONSES

Survey Item		Percent of Staff who		
		Agreed	were Undecided	Disagreed
1	At my school I feel safe and secure.	90	5	5
2	At my school the school building is kept clean and in good condition.	76	7	17
3	At my school personnel work together as a team.	86	6	8
4	At my school administrators solve problems effectively.	82	8	10
5	At my school I feel that my ideas are listened to and considered.	81	10	10
6	At my school adequate disciplinary measures are used to deal with disruptive	73	10	16
7	My principal is an effective administrator.	86	7	12
8	My principal represents the school in a positive manner.	89	5	5
9	My principal demonstrates good interpersonal skills.	84	6	10
10	My principal deals with conflict constructively.	81	9	9
11	My principal responds in a reasonable time to my concerns.	87	7	7
12	My principal treats me with respect.	90	4	6
13	My principal is receptive to constructive criticism.	76	15	10
14	My principal is supportive of teachers.	85	8	8
15	I am limited by too many students in each class.	23	7	69
16	I am limited by student deficiencies in basic academic skills.	55	9	37
17	I am limited by lack of concern/support from parents.	56	9	36
18	I am limited by lack of concern/support from the principal.	9	8	83
19	I am limited by lack of concern/support from the district administration.	13	25	62
20	I am limited by insufficient resources (e.g., funds, books, equipment, supplies, etc.).	39	9	53
21	I am limited by school violence.	4	4	92
22	I am limited by student gang activity.	2	4	95
23	I am limited by student substance abuse.	2	4	95
24	Students come to my class at the beginning of the term prepared academically.	47	11	42
25	I feel satisfied concerning how my career is progressing at this school.	76	12	11
26	I have a feeling of job security in my present position.	77	13	12
27	I like working at my school.	87	7	5
28	Staff morale is high at my school.	62	17	20
29	I frequently feel overloaded and overwhelmed while working at my school.	46	13	41
30	Annual teacher evaluations are fair and reasonable.	67	17	17
31	Annual teacher evaluations are used to improve teacher performance.	65	19	15
32	In-service programs keep me informed of the latest educational strategies.	86	9	6
33	I believe children attending my school are receiving a good education.	91	6	3
34	The overall climate or atmosphere at my school is positive and helps students learn.	86	7	7
35	What overall grade would you give to this school?	<b>B+</b>		

*\*Agreed = strongly agree + agree, Disagreed = strongly disagree + disagree, U = Undecided.*

## 2013-2014 STUDENT RESPONSES

Survey Item		Percent of Students Who		
		Agreed	Were Undecided	Disagreed
1	I feel safe at my school.	85	9	6
2	My school building is kept clean and in good condition.	61	16	23
3	Students in my school usually follow school rules.	45	24	31
4	There are too many students in my classroom and that affects how much I learn.	17	9	74
5	My teachers require that I work very hard for the grades I get.	91	6	3
6	My school has enough books and equipment to help me learn.	86	8	6
7	Food served for lunch at my school looks good and tastes good.	30	22	48
8	I like the choice of classes I have at this school.	71	21	8
9	My teachers are friendly and easy to talk to.	84	9	7
10	My teachers make learning fun and interesting.	87	8	5
11	My teachers make me want to learn.	87	8	5
12	My teachers know a lot about the subjects they teach.	93	5	2
13	My teachers give me meaningful homework that helps me learn.	86	8	6
14	My teachers are interested in how I do in the future.	82	14	4
15	My teachers let me know how I am doing on my schoolwork.	89	6	5
16	Violence is a problem at my school.	27	13	60
17	Gangs are a problem at my school.	16	11	73
18	Student drug and alcohol use are problems at my school.	13	7	80
19	My principal does a good job running the school.	87	7	6
20	The assistant principals are available when needed.	72	19	9
21	My guidance counselor helps me with school and personal problems.	71	23	6
22	Adults at my school care about me as an individual.	71	17	12
23	Adults at my school help me when I need it.	84	11	5
24	I like coming to my school.	74	12	14
25	I am getting a good education at my school.	89	8	3
26	The overall climate or feeling at my school is positive and helps me learn.	77	16	7
27	I ride the district school bus and I like it.	13	69	18
28	I have an Electronic device that I can bring to school daily.	15	72	13
29	<b>What overall grade would you give to your school?</b>	<b>B+</b>		

*\*A = strongly agree + agree, D = strongly disagree + disagree, U = undecided/unknown.*

*The sum of the Item percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.*

## 2013-2014 PARENT RESPONSES

	Survey Item	Percent of Parents Who		
		Agreed	were Undecided	Disagreed
1	The school is safe and secure.	95	4	1
2	The school is kept clean and in good condition.	90	4	5
3	The school is overcrowded to the degree that it affects learning.	33	36	31
4	The school maintains high academic standards.	90	8	2
5	The school uses adequate disciplinary measures in dealing with disruptive students.	93	6	1
6	The school makes available textbooks, equipment, and supplies needed for learning.	85	12	4
7	The school serves lunches that are nutritious and taste good.	74	17	9
8	I am satisfied with the choice of ed. programs offered by the school.	92	4	4
9	Teachers are friendly and easy to talk to.	88	9	3
10	Teachers make learning interesting and relevant.	95	4	1
11	Teachers motivate students to learn.	96	3	1
12	Teachers take an interest in students' educational future.	95	3	2
13	Teachers are knowledgeable and understand their subject matter.	89	8	3
14	Teachers assign meaningful homework that helps students learn.	93	6	1
15	Teachers do their best to include me in matters directly affecting my child in school.	83	14	3
16	The school teaches students the basic academic skills in reading.	93	7	1
17	The school teaches students basic academic skills in mathematics.	88	10	2
18	The school teaches students to speak and write correctly in English.	92	6	2
19	The school teaches how to solve problems in science.	84	12	3
20	The school teaches use of computers.	93	6	1
21	The school teaches students to think critically and reason problems.	84	11	4
22	The school teaches students to develop good study and work habits.	93	7	1
23	The school teaches students to get along with different people.	86	8	5
24	The school is free of violence.	65	15	21
25	The school is free of gang activity.	61	14	26
26	The school is free of substance abuse.	66	11	22
27	The principal does an effective job running my child's school.	94	4	2
28	The principal is available and easy to talk to.	90	10	1
29	The assistant principals are effective administrators.	91	8	1
30	Guidance counselors try to help students with educational and personal problems.	90	9	1
31	Staff in the principal's office treats me with respect when contacted.	93	5	2
32	School staff responds to my needs in a reasonable period of time.	90	8	2
33	My child is getting a good education at this school.	94	4	2
34	The overall climate at the school is positive and helps my child learn.	95	4	1
35	I am satisfied with the bus/ transportation provided by the district.	40	43	17
36	My child has an electronic device that can be brought daily to school.	35	18	46
	What overall grade would you give to your child's school?			
37	What overall grade would you give to your child's school?			<b>B+</b>

*Agreed* = strongly agree + agree, *Disagreed* = strongly disagree + disagree, *Undecided/unknown*.

## Individual School Results

Individual School Results are available for every School that participated in the 2013-14 School Climate Surveys at the following site:

<http://drs.dadeschools.net/SchoolClimateSurvey/SCS.asp>



## SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEYS 2013-2014 Individual School Results

Each year, M-DCPS conducts the School Climate Surveys involving parents, students, and staff. The purpose of these surveys is to gather information regarding what these groups think about the schools and their perceptions concerning how the schools can be improved.

Below are the results of the School Climate Surveys for 2013-2014. The results are sorted by school number within each of the following ten (10) drop-down menus. Typically, each individual school report contains four pages: a Demographic page and a summary page for each of the three (3) responding groups: parents, students, and staff.

Each survey summary page includes the results for that particular school as well as the results for all schools at the same organizational level or focus (i.e., Elementary, K-8 centers, Middle, Senior High, Vocational/Adult Education, and/or alternative/special centers).

Please note that some schools may not have data reported for a particular responding group, for reasons such as: a) the survey was not administered because it was not appropriate for the population (e.g., students in grades 3 and below did not complete the surveys), or b) simply the school did not participate in all surveys.

NOTE: The opinions offered in the surveys represent anonymous and self-reported perceptions on the part of parents, students, and staff and may not precisely reflect the actual situation at a school. However, these opinions represent a reality to the respondents and should afford insight into the impression a school is making on the local community. If you have any further questions about the survey, please contact ARDA at (305) 995-7091.

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<b>Elementary</b>	
0001-3000 Select school from list below ▼	3001-5999 Select school from list below ▼
<b>Middle</b> Select school from list below ▼	<b>K-8 Centers</b> Select school from list below ▼
<b>Senior High</b> Select school from list below ▼	<b>Special Centers</b> Select school from list below ▼
<b>Charter</b> Select school from list below ▼	<b>Adult/Vocational</b> Select school from list below ▼



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