

A Teacher's Guide to Using Student Perception Surveys

Your Student Perception Survey results will give you a powerful tool for understanding your students' experience in your classroom. These results will likely confirm some things that you knew about your classroom, surprise you with some things that you didn't know, and open up new questions about things you want to explore further.

This data is a unique source of actionable feedback on your instructional practice that you can apply to build upon your strengths and accelerate your professional development. The survey is aligned to Colorado's Teacher Quality Standards and includes items that research has found to be strongly correlated with student learning outcomes.

HOW YOUR DISTRICT MAY USE THE RESULTS

- As a formative tool
 - Teachers can use results as a formative tool to reflect on their practice, complete their self-assessment, and create goals.
 - Principals can use results to pair teachers who need growth in an area with teachers who have demonstrated strength in that same area.
 - Schools and districts can use results to identify and create strategies to address trends.
- As part of teacher evaluation
 - Survey results at the question level could be used as an artifact for determining ratings for professional practices (Teacher Quality Standards 1-3).
 - Survey results could also be considered as one of the multiple measures.
 - Teachers could be evaluated on the plan they create around their results independent of the results themselves (Teacher Quality Standard 4 only).
- This is not a mutually exclusive choice; results could be used formatively by teachers to inform their practice during the year and also be included as a part of their formal evaluation.

HOW YOU CAN USE YOUR RESULTS

- With 34 survey items, there is a lot of information to process. As such, you may want to set aside sufficient time to review and reflect on the results. Processing results can take anywhere from a few hours to a couple of days depending on the approach you take.
- Collaborate with a trusted colleague to help you think about how to use the results. You might consider consulting with a team teacher, instructional coach, administrator, master/mentor teacher, or friend.
- When reflecting on your results individually or as a group, ask the following questions.ⁱ
 - What observations do you have about these results?
 - Does anything surprise you?
 - What are you most proud of?



- What do you learn from the results?
- How can you improve on this data next year?
- Are you making progress on your vision for your students/school?
- What interventions/support do you need in order to improve?
- Spend some time using the data to reflect on your strengths as a teacher and your greatest opportunities for growth. To do this, pull in survey data and other data points that you have, such as observation data from an evaluator or coach, your self-assessment of your professional practice, and data on your students' learning outcomes.
- Identify two or three immediate next steps that you can take to improve in your development areas, and infuse what you learn from the survey into other activities in which you reflect on your performance.
- Use team time or professional development time to explore school-wide summary results and identify trends, strengths, and opportunities for all-staff professional development.
- Use Student Perception Survey results as a tool to inform your self-assessment and reflection, goal setting, and feedback conversations.

ⁱ Kanold, Timothy D. *The Five Disciplines of PLC Leaders*. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree Press, 2011.