

## How Student Perception Surveys Are Used Across the Country

Student Perception Surveys are being used in many states, districts, and charter school management organizations and each entity has created a survey administration process that works for them.

### SURVEY CONTENTS

#### **Achievement First (Public charter schools in Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island)**

Students respond to 13 questions on a 5-point scale. All surveys are the same for grades 3 -12.

#### **Aspire Public Schools (Charter schools in California and Tennessee)**

An elementary survey (grades 3-5) includes 20 questions on a 3-point scale (Yes, Maybe/Sometimes, No). A secondary survey (grades 6-12) contains 20 questions on a 5-point scale (Totally true, Mostly true, Somewhat, Mostly untrue, Totally untrue).

#### **Denver Public Schools (DPS)**

The EC-2 survey has 9 questions, the survey for grades 3-5 has 21 questions, and the survey for grades 6-12 has 22 questions.

#### **North Carolina Public Schools**

There are three age-specific versions of the survey: an early elementary version (grades K-2), an upper elementary version (grades 3-5), and a secondary version (grades 6-12). Question and answer options are adjusted for the age of the students.

### SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

#### **Achievement First**

Achievement First calculates a random sample of 24 students for every teacher from all of his or her classes. As a result, each student has a unique set of surveys to take. Surveys are printed at a local printing company, organized into piles, and made into packets for each student. These packages are then sent to each school.

#### **Aspire Public Schools**

Aspire administers the student survey to all students on all teachers, using all paper surveys. The central office prints the surveys and sends them to individual schools and the schools send them back to the office when complete.

#### **Denver Public Schools (DPS)**

Secondary schools in DPS had every second period teacher survey his/her class. For EC-2, a proctor who wasn't the students' teacher was required to administer the surveys. Teachers in grades 3-12 could administer the surveys to their own students if they chose. Teachers were permitted to read the questions aloud as a modification. DPS printed all of the surveys in their district distribution center. Each DPS school has a site assessment leader (SAL) that serves as the point person for survey administration. The central office sends each school's SAL the survey timelines, requirements, and additional information.

#### **North Carolina Public Schools**

In all districts, the K-2 survey was administered via paper and pencil. An online option was made available for students in grades 3-12, and 41 of the 49 school districts in the state opted for this version. Each superintendent selected a district coordinator who served as the main contact between the district, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), and Cambridge Education (the survey vendor). The district coordinator assigned a school coordinator at each school who was responsible for distributing and collecting survey materials.

#### **Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS)**

PPS surveys two classes per eligible teacher, which includes core content teachers, related arts teachers, ESL teachers, and special education teachers. Teachers who are self-contained will have the same class surveyed at two different time points.

## FREQUENCY OF ADMINISTRATION

### **Achievement First, Aspire Public Schools, North Carolina Public Schools, and Pittsburgh Public Schools**

Student surveys are administered once a year.

### **Denver Public Schools (DPS)**

DPS surveyed all students twice during the 2011-12 school year, in the fall and the spring. Going forward, frequency may be based on grade level, and range from once to twice a year.

## VENDORS OR PROVIDERS USED

### **Achievement First**

Achievement First uses a Denver-based provider, Survey2Go.

### **Aspire Public Schools**

Aspire uses TAB, a record management company, to process survey data.

### **North Carolina Public Schools**

North Carolina Public Schools contracted with Cambridge Education, an international education firm.

## PROCESSING AND REPORTING

### **Achievement First**

Each school sends its completed surveys directly to Survey2Go, who uploads the results in Excel for viewing and assessment. In 2011-12, Achievement First created reports of survey data using Microsoft Access. Teachers have an individual meeting with their coach to discuss the results.

### **Aspire Public Schools**

Aspire's central office sends the surveys to TAB to process and translate into usable data. After receiving the survey data from TAB, Aspire uses Tableau, a data visualization application, to analyze the data and create reports.

### **Denver Public Schools (DPS)**

The site assessment leaders (SALs) are in charge of collecting the surveys to be scanned and processed in the district distribution center. Results are available approximately one month after the surveys are completed. Reports are made available on online portal sites through DPS.

### **North Carolina Public Schools**

Teachers, principals, and superintendents received emails verifying their individual accounts to access the data to view district, school, and classroom level results online, as reported by Cambridge Education.

## USING RESULTS

### **Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS)**

PPS highlights the importance of providing tools for reflection and developing strategies for practice. They implemented Learning Bridge, an online resource that teachers can access to identify professional development opportunities and resources to address areas for growth.

### **Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District**

Charlotte-Mecklenburg noted that a common focal area for improvement was control, and implemented My Teaching Partner, a professional development coaching tool that operates in conjunction with the Tripod Project and Cambridge Education.