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Colorado’s Student Perception Survey: What Parents Need to Know

**Overview**

This year we are administering a student perception survey (SPS). The questions in the survey will ask your child to give feedback about his or her teacher and learning experiences. The goal is for teachers to use student survey results to become even better teachers.

A permission slip is not needed; we simply want to keep you informed.

**What This Means for Your Child and Other Students**

Your child should know that his or her voice and classroom experiences matter. The student survey is a way for students to communicate their thoughts to teachers without any negative consequences. The survey results will be confidential. Teachers will not receive student names with their survey results.

Every student in the district will most likely take the survey at least once, and some students will take it more than once (for different teachers). While we want all teachers to receive feedback from their students, we are also trying to make sure that students are not completing multiple surveys when it’s not necessary.

**What This Means to You as a Parent**

We know that having a great teacher is the most important school-based factor in your child’s success. The student survey is one of many tools our school district can use to provide teachers with feedback to help them improve. Schools will be stronger and your child’s teachers will be better. Ultimately, your child’s learning will improve, too.

**What This Means for Teachers and Schools**

The purpose of the SPS is to provide educators with more feedback about how they can improve to increase student learning. Common practice in teacher evaluations is for principals to observe a teacher instructing a lesson and to provide him or her with feedback on strengths and weaknesses. While the principal’s feedback helps teachers improve their instruction, teachers can improve even more when given information from students who are in their classrooms every day.

The surveys are *not* designed to measure whether students like or dislike their teacher. Rather, the focus is on how teachers and the classroom environment help students learn.

**How Can I Learn More?**

Visit The Colorado Education Initiative website at [www.coloradoedinitiative.org/studentsurvey](http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/studentsurvey) to learn more about the SPS and to see the survey questions.