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A Principal’s Guide to Using Student Perception Survey Results

Student Perception Survey (SPS) results are a powerful tool for understanding your students’ experience in your school. These results will likely confirm some things that you knew about your school, 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 teachers’ instructional practice and your school climate that you and your faculty can apply to continue building upon your strengths and accelerate professional development and students’ academic growth. The survey is aligned to Colorado’s Teacher Quality Standards and includes items[[1]](#footnote-1) that research has found to be strongly correlated with student learning outcomes. Take some time on your own and jointly with your school staff to review school results, then think about how the data can guide you further down the path toward providing excellent instruction that helps all students achieve at high levels.

HOW TO READ YOUR REPORT

[Insert specific information here depending on the report format.]

HOW TO USE YOUR RESULTS

The following recommendations will help you make the most of your SPS results:

* Establish time for your school staff to review and reflect on the results together. Consider using early release days, professional development days, or in-service days. Lead the staff in a facilitated discussion to jointly agree on shared strengths and areas for growth. When reflecting on your results, ask the following questions:[[2]](#footnote-2)
	+ What observations do you have about these results?
	+ Does anything you?
	+ What are you most proud of?
	+ What can we learn from the results?
	+ How can we improve on this data next year?
	+ Are we making progress on our vision for students and our school?
	+ What interventions or support do teachers and principals need in order to respond to areas identified for improvement?
* Ask staff to develop an action plan for the identified areas of growth. Consider sharing your own plan for professional development. We recommend that you have your staff consider how student survey questions relate to the Colorado Teacher Quality Standards as they develop the action plan.
* Be thoughtful and intentional about how to share results with parents and the wider community.
	+ Provide the necessary context for community members about why your school administered the SPS and how results will be used. This is the first time most parents will see SPS data, and they will likely have questions about it.
	+ Use your established lines of communication with parents. Include a summary in your school newsletter, share it with parents during community meetings or parent-teacher conferences, and post school- or district-level results on your website along with your action plan for building on strengths and improving outcomes.
	+ When communicating results to outside stakeholders, be sure to highlight your staff’s successes and strengths in addition to the plan for improving results.
* Use SPS results in the Unified Improvement Planning process. See CEI’s [guidance document](http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SPS_Results_UIP-Guidance-CEI.pdf) for more information.
1. A number of items on the Colorado SPS were adapted from items made available for noncommercial use through the Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.   [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Kanold, T.D. *The Five Disciplines of PLC Leaders*. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree Press, 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)