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A District Leader’s Guide to Using Student Perception Survey Results

Student Perception Survey (SPS) results are a powerful tool for understanding your students’ experience in your district. These results will likely confirm some things that you knew about your district, 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 that district leaders, principals, and teachers can apply to continue building upon 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 principals to review district 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 school principals to review and reflect on the results together. Consider using early release days, professional development days, or in-service days. Lead principals in a facilitated discussion to jointly agree on shared strengths and areas for growth. When reflecting on the district’s results, ask the following questions:[[2]](#footnote-2)
	+ What are we learning from the results?
	+ How can we improve on this data next year?
	+ Are we making progress on our vision for students and our district?
	+ What interventions or support do teachers, principals, and district leaders need in order to improve?
* Ask principals to develop an action plan for identified areas of growth in their school. You might want to consider sharing your own plan for professional development.
* 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 district 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 district newsletter, share it with parents during community meetings or parent-teacher conferences, and post district-level results on your website along with your action plan for building on strengths and improving outcomes.
	+ When communicating with outside stakeholders, be sure to highlight your district’s successes and strengths in addition to the plan for improving results.
* Use SPS results in the Unified Improvement Planning process.
	+ See our [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)