

NYSED Needs Assessment

Family Survey

The following family/caregiver survey is organized around the three schoolwide structures that are part of the School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP):

1. Rigorous, Standards-Aligned Curriculum and Instruction
2. Every Child Thrives
3. Attendance

The survey questions are centered around assessing the systems and structures in a building to better understand the extent to which these exist. These questions are organized around the principles of **Consistency, Coherence, and Belonging**, three common features prioritized in trajectory-changing schools, as noted in [The Opportunity Makers](#).

Family/Caregiver Survey: School Systems & Structures

Directions

Schools will need to administer a survey to families using **these exact questions** as part of their Needs Assessment process.

Example Introduction:

Dear Families and Caregivers,

We'd like to hear from you about your experience with our school.

This short survey asks about three things that shape students' daily experience:

- What and how students are learning
- Whether students feel known, supported, and included
- How the school supports attendance and helps students stay connected to learning

Your feedback helps us understand how consistent school feels for families and where experiences may vary from classroom to classroom or year to year. There are no right or wrong answers. We're interested in your honest perspective to learn what's working well and what could be better.

Your responses will be used to guide school improvement and strengthen our support to our students. The survey is confidential, and we truly value your voice.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your thoughts and help us improve our school.

Scale

Please use the scale below when administering the survey:

NYSED NEEDS ASSESSMENT: FAMILY SURVEY

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I don't know / I haven't seen this
Statement 1						
Statement 2						

Optional statement to include below the scale: *If you haven't seen or experienced something described in a question, please choose "I don't know."*

Rigorous, Standards-Aligned Curriculum and Instruction

Purpose: Ensure every student has access to challenging, high-quality learning that prioritizes deep thinking and application.

Example Heading for Survey Questions: **What and How Students are Learning**

1. I understand what my child is expected to learn at their grade level.
2. The amount and type of work my child does seems similar to what students experience in other classrooms or grade levels.
3. I believe my child is regularly challenged to think deeply and explain their ideas, not just complete assignments.
4. Teachers' expectations for learning seem similar across classrooms.
5. If my child needs extra help, they continue working on grade-level material with additional support rather than being given easier work.
6. Communication from teachers and the school helps me understand how classroom learning connects from year to year.

Every Child Thrives

Purpose: Create conditions where all students feel safe, known, and supported to learn and grow.

Example Heading for Survey Questions: **Supporting Students**

1. There is at least one adult at school who knows my child well and looks out for them.
2. The school treats my child fairly and holds them to high expectations.
3. Students like my child are understood and supported at this school.
4. I feel welcome to share my ideas or concerns about my child's learning, and the school listens and responds.
5. The school keeps me informed about my child's progress and any supports they may need.
6. The expectations from adults seem consistent across classrooms.
7. The school helps families understand how to support learning at home.
8. Overall, I believe this school provides a consistent and supportive experience for all students, not just depending on which teacher they have.

Attendance

Purpose: Understand whether attendance practices are consistent, supportive, and centered on student well-being.

Example Heading for Survey Questions: **Attendance**

NYSED NEEDS ASSESSMENT: FAMILY SURVEY

1. The school communicates clearly with families about attendance expectations.
2. If my child misses school, the school reaches out to understand why, not just to report the absence.
3. Attendance concerns are handled in ways that feel supportive rather than punitive.
4. When my child returns after an absence, the school helps them reengage with learning.
5. The way tardies and absences are handled does not discourage my child from coming to school.
6. Attendance expectations and responses feel consistent, not dependent on which teacher or staff member is involved.
7. The school considers factors like health, stress, or anxiety when attendance becomes a concern.
8. The school helps my child feel known and welcomed.
9. Overall, the school's approach to attendance supports students' belonging and success.