

NYSED Needs Assessment

Student Survey

The following student survey is organized around 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](#).

Student Survey: School Systems & Structures

Directions

Schools will need to administer a survey to students in grades 4-12 using **these exact questions** as part of their Needs Assessment process. Schools that do not have any students in grades 4-12 can skip the Student Survey or design their own based on the ideas presented below.

Example Introduction:

We want to hear about your experience at school.

This survey asks about how learning works at your school and whether students feel supported, challenged, and included. There are no right or wrong answers. We're interested in what school feels like *for you*.

Your answers will help adults understand what's working well and what could be better for students. This survey is **not** about grading you or your teachers, and your responses will not affect your grades.

Please answer honestly based on what you have seen and experienced. If a question doesn't make sense to you or you haven't seen it, choose the option that fits best.

Thank you for sharing your voice. It matters.

Scale

Please use the scale below when administering the 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.

Note: There are two different sets of questions provided for this section. The *Secondary Student Questions* should be administered in schools serving junior high school and high school students. In recognition that elementary students may have the same teacher most of the day and may have difficulty interpreting some of what is being asked in the *Secondary Student Questions*, a set of questions for elementary students has been provided. Schools serving both elementary and middle school students can determine how best to proceed, provided the students **all receive the same questions**. Please remember that the student survey has been designed for students in grades 4-12.

Secondary Student Questions

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

1. In most of my classes, I am asked to think deeply, explain my ideas, and learn from mistakes.
2. The amount of challenge in my classes feels about the same from one class to another.
3. When I need help, my teachers give me support that makes things easier to understand without taking away the challenge or doing the work for me.
4. Teachers across classes use similar expectations for what good work looks like.

Elementary (grades 4+) Questions

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

1. Either ask question 1 above or modify to: "I am asked to think hard, explain my ideas, and learn from mistakes."
2. Either ask question 2 above or modify to: "My schoolwork challenges me in a good way."
3. Either ask question 3 above or modify to: "When I need help, my teachers give me support that makes things easier to understand without doing the work for me."
4. Either ask question 4 above or modify to: "My teacher's expectations make sense to me."

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 really knows me and cares about how I'm doing.
2. Adults at this school treat all students fairly and believe we can all do well.
3. I feel like students like me are accepted and included at this school.
4. I can share my ideas in class, and teachers listen and take them seriously.
5. Teachers and staff notice when I'm having a hard time and try to help.
6. Expectations for working hard and doing quality work are about the same in all my classes.
7. The school is a place where students like me are respected and valued.

8. Adults at this school are disappointed when I don't do my best because they believe I can succeed.

Attendance

Purpose: *Understand whether attendance practices help students feel welcomed, supported, and expected to be present.*

Example Heading for Survey Questions: **Attendance**

1. Adults at this school want me to be here and notice when I'm not.
2. If I miss school, someone checks in to understand what's going on.
3. When I come back after being absent, I am welcomed and helped to catch up.
4. Being late or missing school does not make me feel embarrassed or singled out.
5. Expectations about being on time and attending class feel the same across my classes.
6. Adults at this school help deal with things that make it hard to come to school.
7. Feeling connected to my teachers, classmates, or activities makes me want to come to school.
8. Overall, this school helps students feel supported, expected, and able to come to school regularly.