



OurSCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is it?

OurSCHOOL is an **online student survey** that helps teachers and principals learn about students' feelings towards their school and their thoughts for improving their school environment. The survey is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers. The survey is simply a way for students to have their voices heard.

Who sees the information?

The information is sent over a secure data line to a database server where the information is mixed with all of the other responses from thousands of students in the same grade. That information can then only be retrieved by each school and can be organized by factors, such as grade and sex. In cases where less than 5 students respond to a given question, the results will not be shown.

How is this done?

The survey is completely **anonymous**. Students will receive a randomly generated username and password. No one will know which students gave which answers (it has "credit card" level security). Only if a student identifies themselves in the written responses (which we ask students NOT to do) will the school know who has written that single response. Even then, there is no linkage to the other answers given.

Why is participation important?

This is an opportunity for students to give their opinion on things that matter to them at school. Student answers will provide valuable information that will be used to improve the school's learning environment. And so by participating, teachers and principals get useful information that helps them to determine what needs to get done to improve their school. Since this survey is designed by researchers, and administered via the Learning Bar, we are

confident that the survey items are reliable and valid and that they identify factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other school outcomes.

Why does the survey ask personal questions?

The survey assesses a number of personal areas in order to get a complete picture of the students in the school. These personal questions are linked to student health and well-being, and they will give us information about the needs of your school community. Please remember that because the survey is anonymous, individual student responses to personal questions are not identifiable. Teachers and principals only see answers for an entire grade or school overall.

Voluntary or Mandatory?

This survey is **voluntary**. Students are asked to complete it in order to help make the school a better place to learn. Students may choose to skip any questions that they find too personal or to which they do not know the answer. There is no penalty should a student choose not to participate in the survey.

If you would like to receive more information about the survey, please contact your school principal.