2016 NYC School Survey Report Guide

The NYC School Survey Report helps school leaders understand what key members of the school community say about the learning environment at each school. The information captured by the survey and shared in this report is designed to support a dialogue among all members of the school community about how to make the school a better place to learn.

Every year, all parents, all teachers, and students in grades 6 – 12 take the NYC School Survey. This is the second year that pre-K parents and teachers participated in the survey. The survey ranks among the largest of any kind ever conducted nationally. In 2016, 1,002,196 surveys out of a possible 1,591,382 were submitted, representing 63% of the NYC public-school community.

Survey results are shared in the NYC School Survey Report for school and public audiences and provide insight into a school's learning environment. Survey questions are organized and reported as they relate to the six elements of the Framework for Great Schools: Rigorous Instruction, Collaborative Teachers, Supportive Environment, Effective School Leadership, Strong Family-Community Ties, and Trust. Survey results also inform the family-facing School Quality Snapshot and school-facing School Quality Guide by providing information from the school community alongside other data points.

A detailed breakdown of survey responses is reported in each school's NYC School Survey Report. The survey report presents overall response rates for each school and a question-by-question look at survey results by Framework element and respondent group. Section 1 of this guide explains calculations related to the survey results, which are reported as the percentage of positive responses. Section 2 addresses frequently asked questions.

Section 1: SURVEY RESULTS (PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE RESPONSES)

For each school, the report presents the percentage of positive responses for the six categories of the survey: Rigorous Instruction, Collaborative Teachers, Supportive Environment, Effective School Leadership, Strong Family-Community Ties, and Trust. Calculating these percentages at the school level begins with the responses to each survey question by parents, teachers, and students at a school.

Question – Percentage of Positive Responses

In general, the percentage of positive responses is the percentage of respondents who answered in the favorable half of the possible response options. Response options in the 2016 NYC School Survey fall within the following categories: agreement, satisfaction, quantity, and frequency. The table below shows the response options from each category that were considered negative and positive.

Category	Negative Response		Positive Response	
Agreement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Satisfaction	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Quantity	None	A few	Most	All
Frequency[1]	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often

Category – Percentage of Positive Responses

For each category, the percentage of positive responses is calculated through a two-step process, which reflects the structure of the survey. The survey questions in each category fall within subtopics called measures. For example, the survey questions in the Rigorous Instruction category fall within the following measures: Common Core shifts in literacy,

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[1] For one frequency-based question about students working in small groups (teacher question 22a), the response options were "None of the time," "Some of the time," "Most of the time," and "All of the time." Responses of "Most of the time" and "All of the time" were treated as positive for this question.

For seven frequency-based questions students responded to about bullying and school safety, a different rule was applied to define positive responses. For these questions, only "None of the time" was treated as a positive response. "Some of the time," "Most of the time," and "All of the time" were treated as negative responses. These seven questions are not included in the six survey categories (for the elements of the Framework of Great Schools), but are presented in the Informational section of the survey report.

Common Core shifts in math, course clarity, and quality of student discussion.[2] The percent positive for each category is calculated using the following two steps:

- **Step 1 (Measure – Percent Positive)**: The percentage of positive responses for each measure is the average of the percentage of positive responses for all the questions within the measure. For example, the percentage of positive responses for the "Common Core shifts in literacy" measure is the average of the percentage of positive responses for all of the questions within that measure.

- **Step 2 (Category – Percent Positive):** The percentage of positive responses for each category is the average of the percentage of positive responses for all the measures within that category. For example, the percentage of positive responses for the Rigorous Instruction category is the average of the percentage of positive responses for Common Core shifts in literacy, Common Core shifts in math, course clarity, and quality of student discussion.

Color Ratings for Element Percent Positives

For schools with grades Pre-K through 12, the percentage of positive responses for each element is assigned a color rating based on:

- The school's Framework survey rating, and
- How the percentage of positive survey responses at a school compares to schools of the same school type[3] this year.

Unlike the 4-point Framework survey rating, the color rating for the percentage of positive responses is based on a 5-point "Below Average" to "Above Average" scale.

Color Rating	Criteria		
	Framework Rating		**Element Percent Positive Compared to City Average**
	4		
	3	and	The element percent positive is **above** the city average
	3	and	The element percent positive is **equal to** or **below** the city average
	2	and	The element percent positive is **equal to** or **above** the city average
	2	and	The element percent positive is **below** the city average
	1		

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[2] The Appendix to this Guide shows the measures within each element and the respondent group(s) that were asked about each measure.

[3] School types are determined by the range of grades served at a school. To find a school's school type, review the table in the "How are schools categorized?" question in Section 2: Frequently Asked Questions.

Low Response Rates or Numbers

Survey results not reported. If fewer than five survey responses were received from a respondent group, that group's results are not reported due to reliability and confidentiality concerns.

Response Option: "I Don't Know"

For questions that include the option "I Don't Know," this response option does *not* factor into the calculation of the percentage of positive responses.

For example, suppose that a school has 10 responses to a question with response option "I Don't Know." Two respondents selected each response as shown below:

Response option	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I Don't Know
Number of respondents	2	2	2	2	2

In this example, four respondents responded positively (Strongly Agree or Agree). This number is divided by eight (the number of respondents who did not answer "I Don't Know") to produce a percentage of positive responses of 4 ÷ 8 = 50%.

Section 2: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are there any changes to the content of this year's surveys?

In 2014-15, the survey was revised to ask questions designed to gather information about the six elements of the [Framework for Great Schools](#): Rigorous Instruction, Collaborative Teachers, Supportive Environment, Effective School Leadership, Strong Family-Community Ties, and Trust. Based on feedback from the field, the 2015-16 survey was revised to reduce the number of questions on each survey. The NYCDOE removed questions that did not distinguish well between schools or that respondents reported they did not have the information or insight to answer. Questions were also simplified and reworded to increase clarity and encourage more differentiating feedback from respondents. Finally, the NYCDOE added questions based on suggestions from various stakeholders on topics such as pre-K, School Safety Agents, bullying, and desired improvements for schools.

Are schools penalized for low response rates?

While high participation rates help to provide broad and representative information about a school, response rates are reported for informational purposes and schools are not penalized for low response rates. (In sections of the School Quality Reports with ratings based on a combination of survey data and other data, the weights assigned to different data sources may be adjusted if the survey response rate is low. In particular, weight may be shifted from the survey data to the non-survey data in those instances. In addition, if survey response rates or number of responses are very low, the section rating may be N/A.) Further, survey results will be suppressed if certain minimum numbers of responses are not received for a particular respondent group, as outlined in Section 1.

How are response rates calculated?

The response rate is the number of surveys submitted divided by the number of people in the survey population.

Student   The student survey population represents all students in the school who are enrolled in grades 6 through 12.

Parent   The parent survey population represents all parents of students in the school. Parents with more than one child in the same school are counted only once in the parent survey population. Parents with children in more than one school are counted once in each of those schools, and are invited to fill out a survey for each school.

Teacher   The teacher survey population represents all full-time teachers and guidance counselors in the school.

Some survey questions do not fall within the list of elements and measures in the Appendix. Are these questions counted?

Survey questions that do not fall within the list of elements and measures in the Appendix do not contribute to the percentage of positive responses for each element. These questions collect important information about a variety of topics that help schools leaders and other stakeholders better understand schools' strengths and target areas for improvement. These questions are marked "Informational" on the Survey Report.

The sum of response percentages for one survey question does not equal 100%. Why?

For purposes of display, percentages are rounded to the second decimal place. As a result, the sum of the displayed response percentages may not appear to add up to 100% for all questions. For example, if the percentages used for

calculation for a question are 49.5% Strongly Agree and 50.5% Agree, they are displayed in rounded form as 50% and 51%. Likewise, if the true percentages are $33\frac{1}{3}$% Strongly Agree, $33\frac{1}{3}$% Agree, and $33\frac{1}{3}$% and Disagree, they are displayed as 33%, 33%, and 33%.

How are schools categorized?

Schools are categorized by school type as outlined below.

School type	Grade range
Early Childhood School	K, PK-1, PK-2, PK-3
Elementary School	PK-4, PK-5, PK-6, 2-5, 3-5, 4-5, 5
Elementary / Middle School	PK-7, PK-8, 3-8, 4-8
Elementary / Middle / High School	PK-9, PK-10, PK-11, PK-12
Middle School	5-7, 5-8, 6, 6-7, 6-8, 8
Middle / High School	5-9, 5-11, 5-12, 6-9, 6-10, 6-11, 6-12, 7-12, 8-12
High School	9, 9-10, 9-11, 9-12, 10-12, 11-12, 12
Transfer School	Transfer Schools serving grades from 9-12
District 75 School	District 75 Schools

How are blank responses handled?

Survey participation is voluntary. Question satisfaction rates are calculated by dividing the number of respondents selecting each response option by the total number of respondents who answered that particular question. Respondents who left the question blank are not included in the percentages reported per survey question and do not have an impact on the question's percentage of positive responses. Similarly, for questions that include the option "I Don't Know," this response option does *not* factor into the calculation of the percentage of positive responses.

How are multiple responses treated on the NYC School Survey Report?

Answer choices of respondents who selected multiple answer choices to questions that did not indicate "check all that apply" are not reported and are not included in percentage of positive responses.

Appendix (Measures within Each Element Category)

The following tables show the measures within each element and the respondent group(s) that were asked about each measure in the NYC School Survey.

Element	Non-elementary schools			Elementary schools	
Measure	Students	Teachers	Parents	Teachers	Parents
Rigorous Instruction					
Common Core shifts in literacy		✓		✓	
Common Core shifts in math		✓		✓	
Course clarity	✓				
Quality of student discussion		✓		✓	
Collaborative Teachers					
Collective responsibility		✓		✓	
Cultural awareness and inclusive classroom instruction	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Innovation		✓		✓	
Peer collaboration		✓		✓	
School commitment		✓		✓	
Quality of professional development		✓		✓	
Supportive Environment					
Classroom behavior	✓			✓	
Guidance	✓				
Peer support for academic work	✓			✓	
Personal attention and support	✓				
Press toward academic achievement	✓			✓	
Safety	✓			✓	
Social-emotional		✓		✓	
Effective School Leadership					
Inclusive principal leadership			✓		✓
Instructional leadership		✓		✓	
Program coherence		✓		✓	
Teacher influence		✓		✓	
Strong Family-Community Ties					
Parent involvement in the school			✓		✓
Outreach to parents		✓	✓	✓	✓
Trust					
Parent-principal trust			✓		✓
Parent-teacher trust			✓		✓
Student-teacher trust	✓				
Teacher-principal trust		✓		✓	
Teacher-teacher trust		✓		✓	