Every year, parents, teachers, and 6th-12th grade students take the NYC School Survey. The survey ranks among the largest of any kind ever conducted nationally. In 2017, 1,013,131 surveys out of a possible 1,588,730 were submitted, representing 64% of the NYC public school community.

The goal of the NYC School Survey is to help school leaders understand what key members of the school community say about the learning environment at each school. The information collected by the survey is designed to support a dialogue among all members of the school community about how to make the school or program a better place to learn. Responses from the survey are shared in the online School Quality Guide available at tools.nycenet.edu. The results are also accessible via the public data files available at www.nycschoolsurvey.org.

Consider using the following protocol, adapted from the NSRF "ATLAS: Looking at Data" protocol, to examine the feedback captured by your school's NYC School Survey results and reflect on ways this data can help inform planning and professional learning.

SELECT DATA TO SHARE

Review your results from the NYC School Survey and make note of the results that stand out to you. What results are you proud of? Where do you see opportunities for improvement? How does the information in your NYC School Survey results correspond with the data in other reports and data tools, such as the School Quality Snapshot or the School Performance Dashboard?

SHARE & DISCUSS DATA

Once you have taken the time to review your school or program's survey results, plan to share and discuss the data with any or all of the following groups:

- School staff (e.g. teachers, guidance counselors, parent coordinators, etc.)
- Students
- Families

If you think it will lead to a more focused and productive conversation, consider facilitating discussions with smaller groups during department or grade-level meetings. You can also share and discuss the results with your School Leadership Team, Parent Association, or student government.

1. GET STARTED

At the beginning of your group discussion, ensure that all participants have access to the NYC School Survey results either through a print-out or online. If you would like the group to consider other reports or information, make sure they have access to those resources and materials as well. Give a brief statement about the data and avoid explaining your own conclusions about the data.

2. DESCRIBE THE DATA

Ask the participants to share what they see when they look at the NYC School Survey results. If judgments or interpretations arise during these share-outs, ask participants to describe the evidence on which they are based.

3. INTERPRET THE DATA

Once participants have had the opportunity to share their initial reaction to the data, ask the group to consider what the data suggests and why. The group should try to find as many different interpretations of the data as possible and evaluate them against the kind and quality of evidence. Here are some questions the group can consider:

- ☐ Do the results from the survey confirm or challenge any assumptions the group has about the school's performance on any of the individual questions?
- ☐ Do the results from the survey confirm or challenge any assumptions the group has about the school's performance across the six Framework for Great School elements?
- ☐ Based on the data, what questions or elements indicate strengths of your school or program? Which elements or questions surface opportunities for continued improvement?
- ☐ How does the information presented by your survey results correspond with the data in other reports and data tools, such as the School Quality Snapshot, or the School Performance Dashboard?
- ☐ Look at your response rates for each respondent group (e.g. students, teachers, parents/guardians). How representative is the feedback in your school or program's survey results of each population? For example, you can conclude that a 10% response rate among parents/guardians is not very representative, while a 70% response rate is more representative.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING & PRACTICE

Based on the observations and interpretations shared, discuss any implications the NYC School Survey results might have for the learning environment and overall school climate. As a suggestion, consider the following questions:

- ☐ Consider the questions or elements you identified for continued improvement. What factors of school life could be contributing to the results you see?
- ☐ Consider the questions or elements you identified as indicating program strengths. What is the school or program doing that is leading to positive feedback in these areas?
- ☐ Based on your responses to the first two questions, what are issues or areas the group would like to prioritize as needing additional focus and attention?
- ☐ How can you share your data findings with other members of your school community to improve focus and attention towards areas the group would like to prioritize?
- ☐ What steps could be taken next?
- ☐ What strategies might be most effective?
- ☐ What other information would the group be interested in having? How could that information be gathered?