

STUDENT PERCEPTION SURVEY – STUDENT SURVEY

DEFINITIONS GUIDE

The Student Perception Survey is a formative tool through which students may provide teachers feedback on their instructional practice. However, this survey is not an *exam and is not meant to test students’ reading comprehension*. When necessary, proctors may provide students with definitions to words that appear in the survey. Below is a definitions guide that offers some definitions to words commonly found on the survey. The definitions and examples are from the [Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English](#), which is an advanced learner's dictionary, providing definitions using a restricted vocabulary, helping non-native English speakers understand meanings easily.

The survey is designed to amplify student voice so that teachers can better integrate student feedback into their pedagogical practice. Our goal is to ensure that the language in the survey is as accessible as possible. Please use [this form](#) to submit words to be considered for the definitions guide in future years. For more suggestions on how to accommodate students who may require support taking the Student Perception Survey, please reference our [Accommodations Guide](#).

Please email StudentPerceptionSurvey@schools.nyc.gov with questions, comments, or concerns.

WORD	DEFINITION	SENTENCE EXAMPLES	QUESTION NUMBERS IN STUDENT SURVEY
Welcoming	A welcoming place is pleasant and makes you feel relaxed.	The teacher was welcoming to the students as he/she/they greeted them with a smile.	5
Encourage	To convince someone to do something.	The teacher encouraged their students to keep trying by complimenting them on working hard and telling them that they were proud of their efforts.	8, 14

Expectations	What you think or hope will happen.	The teacher had expectations that their class would listen to them.	11
Feedback	Advice, guidance, and/or criticism given so someone can improve.	The teacher provided you with feedback on your paper, which included some suggestions on how to improve in the future.	17
Respectful	Feeling or showing respect, which is the belief that something or someone is important and should not be harmed or treated rudely, for example.	The teacher was respectful to their students, by listening to them and caring about their feelings.	18
Minimizing	To reduce something that is difficult, dangerous, or unpleasant to the smallest possible amount or degree.	We minimize bullying in this school by trying to address any issues as soon as they come up, to prevent them from worsening.	19
Disruptions	To prevent something from continuing in its usual way by causing problems.	The loud fire drill was a disruption to the class and students were unable to complete their exams	19
Concerned	Worried about something.	The Principal was concerned that the student had not attended school in three days, so they called the family to ensure the student is okay.	24
Culture(s)	The beliefs, way of life, art, and customs that are shared and accepted by people in a particular society	I love working in different countries and meeting people from different cultures.	28, 30, 32
Gender	Expected behaviors and characteristics of girls, boys, non-binary people, or other genders. Gender is not biological. People's genders don't always match their sex assigned at birth.	On the school form, families say if their students' gender is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Male - Female - Neither male nor female 	29, 31, 33

Gender Identities	Expected behaviors and characteristics of girls, boys, non-binary people, or other genders. Gender is not biological. People's genders don't always match their sex assigned at birth.	In health class, we learn more about gender identities.	29, 31, 33, 40
Gender Expression	Gender expression is the way in which a person communicates about their gender to others, typically through their appearance, dress, and/or behavior.	In health class, we learn more about gender expression.	29, 31, 33