

# Positive School Climates

*Supporting Success and Wellness for Students and Educators*

## Benefits of Developing a Positive School Climate:

### Increase in student academic performance

**& graduation:** Research shows a positive school climate improves a student’s ability to learn.<sup>1</sup> Schools with positive school climates observe increases in student math and reading scores and higher graduation rates.<sup>1</sup>

### Increase in student & educator emotional wellbeing:

School connectedness and feelings of safety and belonging at school are two of the most influential factors associated with student emotional wellbeing.<sup>2</sup> Likewise, positive relationships with other educators and a supportive work environment protects against educator stress and burnout.<sup>3</sup>

### Increase in student ability to overcome

**challenges:** Students who feel supported and cared about in school report fewer behavioral health concerns, such as feelings of hopelessness, especially during times of challenge or adversity.<sup>4</sup>

**Safer schools with fewer discipline referrals:** According to the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, creating a safe and connected school climate is the best way to prevent acts of violence from occurring in school.<sup>5</sup> A positive school climate is protective against bullying and other undesirable student behaviors resulting in fewer discipline referrals and better classroom management.<sup>6</sup>



## Components of a Positive School Climate:

### Engagement

- Strong relationships between students, teachers, families and schools and strong connections between schools and the broader community.

### Safety

- Schools and school-related activities where students are safe from violence, bullying, harassment, and controlled substance use.

### Environment

- Appropriate facilities, well-managed classrooms, available school-based health supports, and clear, fair disciplinary policy.

## Measuring and Monitoring School Climate:

Measuring school climate provides school administrators and staff with a better picture of the school experience of students, families, and school staff. Information gathered through a school climate survey can help identify needs and inform strategies towards creating or maintaining a positive school climate. The U.S. Department of Education offers a [free school climate survey](#) that can be administered to students, parents and caregivers, and school staff.

Please visit the [National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments](#) to learn more about the benefits and strategies for developing a positive school climate.