

# YouthTruth

— STUDENT SURVEY —

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

## **Student Survey Questions** ***Great Valley School District - 2021***

YouthTruth harnesses student and stakeholder perceptions to help educators accelerate improvements. Through validated survey instruments and tailored advisory services, YouthTruth partners with schools and districts to enhance learning for all students.

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## Student Survey – High School

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The high school student survey asks questions about students' overall school experience and takes approximately 15 minutes to complete (additional topic modules add about 5 minutes each in survey length and are limited to 2). Administrators receive comprehensive reports, along with indexed qualitative comments.

So far this school year, how have you attended classes? (*In-person at school; Virtually; Both in-person at school and virtually*)

### Strengths & Areas for Improvement

- What do you like most about your school? (*My school inspires me to do my best; I have supportive teachers who care about me and help me; Students and staff treat each other with respect and fairness; My classes challenge me to think critically; My school is getting me ready for college or my career; Something else not listed; Nothing – I can't think of anything I like about my school*)
- What do you dislike most about your school? (*My school does not do enough to inspire me to do my best; I don't have enough supportive teachers who care about me and help me; Students and staff don't treat each other with enough respect and fairness; My classes don't do enough to challenge me to think critically; My school does not do enough to get me ready for college or my future career; Something else not listed; Nothing – I can't think of anything I dislike about my school*)
- The COVID pandemic has changed learning for many students. Is there anything you think your school should know about how this change has been for you or that your school can do to help you during this period of change?

Students provide comments responding in more detail to their answers to the three questions in this section. These comments are provided in an indexed table, categorized into the themes listed above.

Students are shown the following language in the survey to clarify that if a student is in crisis, leaving a comment in the survey is not the place to get help:

Sometimes taking a survey can bring up feelings or topics that are hard to talk about. If you need to talk to someone, here are some places you can get help right now:

- National suicide prevention hotline: Call **1-800-273-8255**
- Crisis text line: Text **741741**
- Sexual abuse hotline: Call **1-900-656-4673**
- Domestic violence hotline: Call **1-800-799-7233**

If you'd like to talk to someone at your school, please reach out to your teacher, guidance counselor, or principal.

**Engagement** – Describes the degree to which students perceive themselves as engaged with their school and their education.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- What I learn in class helps me outside of school.
- My teachers' expectations make me want to do my best.
- I try to do my best in school.
- I take pride in my schoolwork.
- I enjoy school most of the time.

Related questions: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I am getting a high-quality education at this school.
- I am able to motivate myself to do schoolwork.
- I am able to focus on my schoolwork.
- I am able to create goals for my own learning (e.g. which skills to improve).

Did you consider dropping out for any of the following reasons? (Yes or No)

(If yes) Why did you consider dropping out? (I didn't feel safe at school; I didn't feel safe going to and from school; I didn't see how the work I was doing would help me in my life; I failed state or other standardized tests; I had fallen behind in school and felt like I couldn't catch up; I needed to work and make money instead of spending most of my day in school; I had personal problems at home; I had problems with other students at school; I was discouraged by an adult(s) at school; Other (please specify))

**Academic Challenge** – Describes the degree to which students feel they are challenged by their coursework and teachers.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- \*The work that I do for my classes makes me really think.
- In most of my classes, we learn a lot almost every day.
- Most of my teachers want me to explain my answers – why I think what I think.
- \*My teachers give me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- Most of my teachers don't let people give up when the work gets hard.
- In most of my classes, we learn to correct our mistakes.
- Most of my teachers want us to use our thinking skills, not just memorize things.
- \*In order to receive a good grade, I have to work hard in my classes.
- \*I can tell that my teachers understand the subjects that they are teaching.

\* Students are asked these four academic challenge questions in the core survey in relation to their overall school experience. To dig deeper, the survey can be customized to ask variations of these same four questions about the following core subjects: English, math, science, and/or social studies. The optional subject specific add-on questions are as follows:

## **Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: English**

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

- I can tell that my English teacher understands the subject that (s)he is teaching.
- In order to receive a good grade in my English class, I have to work hard.
- My English teacher gives me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- The work that I do for my English class makes me really think.

## **Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: Math**

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

- I can tell that my math teacher understands the subject that he/she is teaching.
- In order to receive a good grade in my math class, I have to work hard.
- My math teacher gives me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- The work that I do for my math class makes me really think.

## **Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: Science**

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

- I can tell that my science teacher understands the subject that he/she is teaching.
- In order to receive a good grade in my science class, I have to work hard.
- My science teacher gives me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- The work that I do for my science class makes me really think.

## **Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: Social Studies**

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

- I can tell that my social studies teacher understands the subject that he/she is teaching.
- In order to receive a good grade in my social studies class, I have to work hard.
- My social studies teacher gives me assignments that help me to better understand the subject.
- The work that I do for my social studies class makes me really think.

**Relationships** – Describes the degree to which students feel they receive support and personal attention from their teachers.

How many of your teachers... (1 = *None*; 2 = *A few*; 3 = *Some*; 4 = *Many*; 5 = *All*)

- ...make an effort to understand what your life is like outside of school?
- ...are not just satisfied if you pass, they care if you're really learning?
- ...connect what you're learning in class with your life outside of school?
- ...try to be fair?
- ...believe that you can get a good grade if you try?
- ...are willing to give extra help on schoolwork if you need it?

Is there an adult from school... (*Yes; No; Not sure*)

- ...who would be willing to help you with a personal problem?
- ...you could ask to write you a recommendation for a job, program, scholarship, or college?

When I'm feeling upset, stressed, or having problems, there is an adult from school who I can talk to about it. (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

**Belonging & Peer Collaboration** – Describes the degree to which students have supportive, collaborative relationships with their classmates.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Most students are friendly to me.
- I really feel like part of my school's community.
- I can usually be myself around other students.

How often do you work with other students for your classes... (1= Very rarely; 2= Somewhat Rarely; 3= Sometimes; 4=Somewhat often; 5=Very often)

- ...because your teachers ask or tell you to?
- ...even when your teacher doesn't ask or tell you to?

**Culture** – Describes the degree to which students believe that their school fosters a culture of respect and fairness.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Discipline in this school is fair.
- My classmates want to do well in school.

Think about the students and adults from your school that you interact with (in class, over email, etc.)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Adults from my school treat students with respect.
- Students from my school treat adults with respect.

Adults from my school respect people of different: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Religions or faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I feel safe during school

Are you part of school clubs, teams, or other groups (sports, music, art, etc.)? (Yes; No)

Outside of school, are you part of clubs, sports teams, church/religious activities, or other groups? (Yes; No)

**Obstacles to Learning** – Describes the degree to which students experience barriers to their learning.

Do any of the following make it hard for you to do your best in school? (*Limited or no internet access; Not feeling safe at home; Not feeling safe at school; Limited or no access to a computer or a device; Distractions at home and family responsibilities; Feeling depressed, stressed, or anxious; My health or the health of my family members; Extracurricular commitments; My job; Not having an adult who can help me with my school work; Getting picked on or bullied; My personal relationships; Other (please specify)*)

**College & Career Readiness** – Describes the degree to which students feel equipped to pursue college and careers.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (*1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree*)

- My school has helped me develop the skills and knowledge I will need for college-level classes.
- My school has helped me understand the steps I need to take in order to apply to college.
- My school has helped me figure out which careers match my interests and abilities.
- My school has helped me understand the steps I need to take in order to have the career that I want.

Do you want to go to college? (*Yes; No; I'm not sure*)

After you finish high school, what do you expect to do next? (*Join the military; Work full time at a job; Attend a 2-year college; Attend a 4-year college; Attend a trade/technical school; I'm not sure; Other (please specify)*)

Have your plans for what to do after high school changed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic? (*Yes; No; I'm not sure*)

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, what did you expect to do after graduating high school? (*Join the military; Work full time at a job; Attend a 2-year college; Attend a 4-year college; Attend a trade/technical school; I'm not sure; Other (please specify)*)

This year, have you participated in any of the following services from your school? (*Help choosing classes needed to graduate; College entrance exam preparation (SAT/ACT); Counseling about how to pay for college; Counseling about how to apply to college; Counseling about admissions requirements for different types of colleges; Counseling about future career possibilities*)

- (*If yes*) How helpful have these services been to you? (*1 = Not at all helpful; 5 = Very helpful*)

**Bullying Questions** – Questions about bullying are included as part of Belonging & Peer Collaboration in YouthTruth reports.

In the past year, have other students bullied or harassed you? Were you bullied... *(Physically; Verbally; Socially; Through cyberbullying; I'm not sure; I have not been bullied or harassed during the school year)*

- Students bully each other for a lot of reasons – and being bullied is not your fault. To help your school understand the problem, do you think it happened because... *(Your sex or gender; Your race or skin color; Where your family is from; How you look; Your religion; Because people think you're gay (whether or not you are); How much money your family has; A disability that you have; Other reasons (please specify); I prefer not to say)*

**Emotional and Mental Health** – Describes signs of depression, as well as students' consideration of suicide. Themes include students' approaches to coping and ability to find help at school.

In the last twelve months, have you... *(Yes; No; Can't remember)*

- ...talked to a school counselor, a therapist, or a psychologist because you were upset, stressed, or having problems?
- ...ever felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities?
- ...seriously considered attempting suicide?

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(1 = Not at all; 2 = Not Very Much; 3 = Somewhat; 4 = A moderate amount; 5 = Very much)*

When I'm feeling upset, stressed, or having problems...

- ... I know someone outside of school who I can talk to about it.
- ... My school has programs or services that can help me.
- ... I know some ways to make myself feel better or cope with it.

Think about your life lately. How happy have you been feeling this week? *(1 = Never happy; 2 = Rarely happy; 3 = Sometimes happy; 4 = Often happy; 5 = Happy all the time)*

Think about your life lately. How relaxed have you been feeling this week? *(1 = Never relaxed; 2 = Rarely relaxed; 3 = Sometimes relaxed; 4 = Often relaxed; 5 = Relaxed all the time)*

Think about your life lately. How sad have you been feeling this week? *(1 = Never sad; 2 = Rarely sad; 3 = Sometimes sad; 4 = Often sad; 5 = Sad all the time)*

Think about your life lately. How stressed have you been feeling this week? *(1 = Never stressed; 2 = Rarely stressed; 3 = Sometimes stressed; 4 = Often stressed; 5 = Stressed all the time)*

Overall, how do you feel about your life? *(Five- point sad to happy emoticon scale)*

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – Assesses students' school experiences through the lens of diversity, inclusion and social justice.

I feel like I can talk to students from my school about: *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- My religion or faith.
- My sexual orientation. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- A disability I have. (if you do not have a disability, you may skip this question)
- My gender identity. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- How much money my family has.
- My race or ethnicity.
- Where my family is from.

I feel like I can talk to adults from my school about: *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- My religion or faith.
- My sexual orientation. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- A disability I have. (if you do not have a disability, you may skip this question)
- My gender identity. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- How much money my family has.
- My race or ethnicity.
- Where my family is from.

Students from my school value people of different: *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- Religions or faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

Adults from my school value people of different: *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- Religions or faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

Think about your school. How often do you see people of diverse backgrounds...: *(1= Very rarely; 2= Somewhat Rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Somewhat often; 5 = Very often)*

- In artworks, posters or pictures?
- In publications (e.g. school paper, yearbooks, etc.)?
- In textbooks and other class materials?
- In your classmates' work (e.g. their projects or presentations)?
- During school events?

Think about your school. How often do you learn about the lives and experiences of people of different: *(1= Very rarely; 2= Somewhat Rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Somewhat often; 5 = Very often)*

- Religions or faiths?
- Sexual orientations (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)?
- Abilities? (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. men, women, transgender, something else, etc.)?
- Incomes (how much money someone makes)?
- Races or ethnicities?
- Countries?

My school teaches me about how people have been treated unfairly because of their: *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- Religions or faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

My school makes me interested in getting to know people of diverse backgrounds. *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

My school encourages students to speak out against racism. *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

## Demographics

- What grade are you in? *(9th; 10th; 11th; 12th; Other)*
- How do you describe yourself? *(Boy/Man; Girl/Woman; Non-binary or gender non-conforming; I Prefer to self-describe/identify (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)*
- How would you describe your race and/or ethnicity? (Please check one) *(American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous; Asian or Asian American; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino/a/x; Middle Eastern or North African; Multi-racial and/or Multi-ethnic; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White; Race or ethnicity not included above (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)*
- Do you identify as a person of color? *(Yes; No; Prefer not to say)*
- Choose the letter grade that corresponds with your cumulative grade point average (GPA) for all subjects in high school. *(A+; A; A-; B+; B; B-; C+; C; C-; D+; D; D-; E/F; Prefer not to say)*
- Remember, other students will not know how you answer, and your answer will be combined with those of other students before being shared with adults at your school. Do you receive special education services or have a 504 or IEP (individualized education plan)? This means that you receive extra support with your learning or school assignments. (For example, you might: a) have a special teacher that works with just you or a small group of students, b) get special changes to your work in class that not all students get.) *(Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)*

- An English language learner (ELL) is a student whose first language is not English but who is learning English. English Language Learners usually participate in English language classes at school, like ELD/ESL/ESOL classes, or other language programs or services to learn English. Are you an English Language Learner? *(Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)*
- Think about your life lately. How much has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you? *(1 = Not at all; 2 = A little bit; 3 = Somewhat; 4 = Moderately; 5 = Significantly)*
- At the beginning of the survey you said that you are attending class both at home and at school... *(Only asked of students who answered "Both in-person at school and virtually" to the "how have you attended classes" question.)*
  - Right now, I am taking this survey *(In-person at school, Virtually, Other)*
- Do you consider yourself to be: (Please check one) *(Gay or lesbian; Straight or heterosexual; Bisexual\*; Another identity not included above (optional, please describe); I am not sure; Prefer not to say)* \*A person who is attracted to people of the same or other genders.
- Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual) community? (Please check only one) *(Yes; No; Prefer not to say)*
- Are you transgender? (Please check only one) *(Yes; No; Prefer not to say)*

## Student Survey – Middle School

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The middle school student survey asks questions about students' overall school experience and takes approximately 25 minutes to complete. Administrators receive comprehensive reports, along with indexed qualitative comments.

So far this school year, how have you attended classes? (*In-person at school; Virtually; Both in-person at school and virtually*)

### Strengths & Areas for Improvement

- What do you like most about your school? (*My school inspires me to do my best; I have supportive teachers who care about me and help me; Students and staff treat each other with respect and fairness; My classes challenge me to think critically; My school is getting me ready for high school; Something else not listed; Nothing – I can't think of anything I like about my school*)
- What do you dislike most about your school? (*My school does not do enough to inspire me to be a good student; I don't have enough supportive teachers who care about me and help me; Students and staff don't treat each other with enough respect and fairness; My classes don't do enough to challenge me to think critically; My school is not getting me ready for high school; Something else not listed; Nothing – I can't think of anything I dislike about my school*)
- What about learning at home do you like? Are there things you hope will stay the same next school year? (*Only asked of students who attend school virtually.*)
- The COVID pandemic has changed learning for many students. Is there anything you think your school should know about how this change has been for you or that your school can do to help you during this period of change?

Students provide comments responding in more detail to their answers to the three questions in this section. These comments are provided in an indexed table, categorized into the themes listed above. Students are shown the following language in the survey to clarify that if a student is in crisis, leaving a comment in the survey is not the place to get help:

Sometimes taking a survey can bring up feelings or topics that are hard to talk about. If you need to talk to someone, here are some places you can get help right now:

- National suicide prevention hotline: Call **1-800-273-8255**
- Crisis text line: Text **741741**
- Sexual abuse hotline: Call **1-900-656-4673**
- Domestic violence hotline: Call **1-800-799-7233**

If you'd like to talk to someone at your school, please reach out to your teacher, guidance counselor, or principal.

**Engagement** – Describes the degree to which students perceive themselves as engaged with their school and their education.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I enjoy school most of the time.
- I take pride in my schoolwork.
- What I learn in class helps me outside of school.

Related questions: (1: Not at all well; 2 = Not very well; 3 = Somewhat well; 4 = Moderately well; 5 = Very well)

- I am able to motivate myself to do schoolwork.
- I am able to focus on my schoolwork.
- I am able to create goals for my own learning (e.g. which skills to improve).
- My teachers' expectations make me want to do my best.
- I try to do my best in school.
- I am getting a high-quality education at this school.

**Academic Challenge** – Describes the degree to which students feel they are challenged by their coursework and teachers.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- I feel like I will be ready for high school classes when I finish middle school.
- \*My teachers explain things in a way that I understand.
- In most of my classes, we learn a lot almost every day.
- \*The work that I do for my classes makes me really think.
- Most of my teachers don't let people give up when the work gets hard.
- \*My teachers give me assignments that really help me learn.
- My school is helping me learn the material I will need for high school.
- In most of my classes, we learn to correct our mistakes.
- Most of my teachers want me to explain my answers – why I think what I think.
- Most of my teachers want us to use our thinking skills, not just memorize things.
- \*In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my classes.

*\* Students are asked these four academic challenge questions in the core survey in relation to their overall school experience. To dig deeper, the survey can be customized to ask variations of these same four questions about the following core subjects: English, math, science, and/or social studies. The optional subject specific add-on questions are as follows:*

**Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: English/Language Arts**

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my English/Language Arts classes makes me really think.
- My English/Language Arts teacher gives me assignments that really help me learn.
- In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my English/Language Arts class.

- My English/Language Arts teacher explains things in a way that I understand.

### **Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: Math**

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my math class makes me really think.
- My math teacher gives me assignments that really help me learn.
- In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my math class.
- My math teacher explains things in a way that I understand.

### **Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: Science**

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my science class makes me really think.
- My science teacher gives me assignments that really help me learn.
- In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my science class.
- My science teacher explains things in a way that I understand.

### **Optional Add-on Questions: Academic Challenge: Social Studies**

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- The work that I do for my social studies class makes me really think.
- My social studies teacher gives me assignments that really help me learn.
- In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my social studies class.
- My social studies teacher explains things in a way that I understand.

Do you want to go to college one day? (Yes, No, I'm not sure)

**Culture** – Describes the degree to which students believe that their school fosters a culture of respect and fairness.

Are you part of clubs, teams, or other groups (sports, music, art, etc.)? (Yes, No)

Outside of school, are you part of clubs, sports, teams, church/religious activities, or other groups? (Yes, No)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Discipline in this school is fair.
- I think my classmates want to do well in school.

Think about the students and adults from your school that you interact with (in class, over email, etc.)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Adults from my school treat students with respect.

- Students from my school treat adults with respect.

Adults from my school respect people from different: *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- Religions or faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- I feel safe during school

**Obstacles to Learning** – Describes the degree to which students experience barriers to their learning.

Do any of the following make it hard for you to do your best in school? *(Limited or no internet access; Not feeling safe at home; Not feeling safe at school; Limited or no access to a computer or device; Distractions at home and family responsibilities; Feeling depressed, stressed, or anxious; My health or the health of my family members; Extracurricular commitments; Changing from elementary to middle school; Not having an adult who can help me with my schoolwork; Getting picked on or bullied; My personal relationships; Other (please specify))*

**Belonging & Peer Collaboration** – Describes the degree to which students feel welcome at their school and have collaborative relationships with their classmates.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- I can usually be myself around other students.
- Most students are friendly to me.
- I really feel like a part of my school's community.

How often do you work with other students for your classes... *(1 = Very rarely; 2 = Somewhat Rarely; 3 = Sometimes; 4 = Somewhat often; 5 = Very often)*

- ...because your teachers ask or tell you to?
- ...even when your teacher doesn't ask or tell you to?

**Relationships** – Describes the degree to which students feel they receive support and personal attention from their teachers.

How many of your teachers... *(1 = None; 2 = A few; 3 = Some; 4 = Many; 5 = All)*

- ...are willing to give extra help on schoolwork if you need it?
- ...try to understand what your life is like outside of school?

- ...are not just satisfied if you pass, they care if you're really learning?
- ...believe that you can get a good grade if you try?
- ...try to be fair?
- ...connect what you're learning in class with your life outside of school?

Is there an adult from school who would be willing to help you with a personal problem? *(Yes, No, I don't know)*

Related questions: *(1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)*

- When I'm feeling upset, stressed, or having problems, there is an adult from school who I can talk to about it.

**Bullying Questions** – *Questions about bullying are included as part of Belonging & Peer Collaboration in YouthTruth reports.*

In the past year, have other students bullied or harassed you? Were you bullied... (please check all that apply) *(Physically; Verbally; Socially; Through cyberbullying; I'm not sure; I have not been bullied or harassed during this school year)*

- Students bully each other for a lot of reasons – and being bullied is not your fault. To help your school understand the problem, why do you think it happened? (please check all that apply) *(Your sex or gender; Your race or skin color; Where your family is from; How you look; Your religion; Because people think you're gay (whether you are or not); How much money your family has; A disability that you have; Other reason(s) (please specify); I prefer not to say)*

**Emotional and Mental Health** – *Describes signs of depression, as well as students' consideration of suicide. Themes include students' approaches to coping and ability to find help at school.*

In the last twelve months, have you... *(Yes; No; Can't remember)*

- ...talked to a school counselor, a therapist, or a psychologist because you were upset, stressed, or having problems?
- ...ever felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities?
- ...seriously considered attempting suicide?

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(1 = Not at all; 2 = Not Very Much; 3 = Somewhat; 4 = A moderate amount; 5 = Very much)*

When I'm feeling upset, stressed, or having problems...

- ... I know someone outside of school who I can talk to about it.
- ... My school has programs or services that can help me.
- ... I know some ways to make myself feel better or cope with it.

Think about your life lately. How happy have you been feeling this week? *(1 = Never happy; 2 = Rarely happy; 3 = Sometimes happy; 4 = Often happy; 5 = Happy all the time)*

Think about your life lately. How relaxed have you been feeling this week? (1 = Never relaxed; 2 = Rarely relaxed; 3 = Sometimes relaxed; 4 = Often relaxed; 5 = Relaxed all the time)

Think about your life lately. How sad have you been feeling this week? (1 = Never sad; 2 = Rarely sad; 3 = Sometimes sad; 4 = Often sad; 5 = Sad all the time)

Think about your life lately. How stressed have you been feeling this week? (1 = Never stressed; 2 = Rarely stressed; 3 = Sometimes stressed; 4 = Often stressed; 5 = Stressed all the time)

Overall, how do you feel about your life? (Five-point sad to happy emoticon scale)

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – Assesses students' school experiences through the lens of diversity, inclusion and social justice.

I feel like I can talk to students from my school about: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- My religion or faith.
- My sexual orientation. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- A disability I have. (if you do not have a disability, you may skip this question)
- My gender identity. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- How much money my family has.
- My race or ethnicity.
- Where my family is from.

I feel like I can talk to adults from my school about: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- My religion or faith.
- My sexual orientation. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- A disability I have. (if you do not have a disability, you may skip this question)
- My gender identity. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- How much money my family has.
- My race or ethnicity.
- Where my family is from.

Students from my school value people of different: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Religions or faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

Adults from my school value people of different: (1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree)

- Religions or faiths.

- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

Think about your school. How often do you see people of diverse backgrounds...: (1= *Very rarely*; 2= *Somewhat Rarely*; 3 = *Sometimes*; 4 = *Somewhat often*; 5 = *Very often*)

- In artworks, posters or pictures?
- In publications (e.g. school paper, yearbooks, etc.)?
- In textbooks and other class materials?
- In your classmates' work (e.g. their projects or presentations)?
- During school events?

Think about your school. How often do you learn about the lives and experiences of people of different: (1= *Very rarely*; 2= *Somewhat Rarely*; 3 = *Sometimes*; 4 = *Somewhat often*; 5 = *Very often*)

- Religions or faiths?
- Sexual orientations (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)?
- Abilities? (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. men, women, transgender, something else, etc.)?
- Incomes (how much money someone makes)?
- Races or ethnicities?
- Countries?

My school teaches me about how people have been treated unfairly because of their: (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

- Religions or faiths.
- Sexual orientations. (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, etc.)
- Abilities. (e.g. people with disabilities)
- Gender identities. (e.g. man, woman, transgender, something else, etc.)
- Incomes. (how much money someone makes)
- Races or Ethnicities
- Countries.

My school makes me interested in getting to know people of diverse backgrounds. (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

My school encourages students to speak out against racism. (1 = *Strongly disagree*; 2 = *Disagree*; 3 = *Neither agree nor disagree*; 4 = *Agree*; 5 = *Strongly agree*)

## Demographics

- What grade are you in? (5th; 6th; 7th; 8th; Other)
- How do you describe yourself? (Boy/Man; Girl/Woman; Non-binary or gender non-conforming; I Prefer to self-describe/identify (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)
- How would you describe your race and/or ethnicity? (Please check one) (American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous; Asian or Asian American; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino/a/x; Middle Eastern or North African; Multi-racial and/or Multi-ethnic; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White; Race or ethnicity not included above (optional, please describe); Prefer not to say)
- Do you identify as a person of color? (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)
- In your current classes, what have most of your grades been? (Mostly As; Mostly Bs; Mostly Cs; Mostly Ds or below; Don't know; Prefer not to say)
- Remember, other students will not know how you answer, and your answer will be combined with those of other students before being shared with adults at your school. Do you receive special education services or have a 504 or IEP (individualized education plan)? This means that you receive extra support with your learning or school assignments. (For example, you might: a) have a special teacher that works with just you or a small group of students, b) get special changes to your work in class that not all students get.) (Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)
- An English language learner (ELL) is a student whose first language is not English but who is learning English. English Language Learners usually participate in English language classes at school, like ELD/ESL/ESOL classes, or other language programs or services to learn English. Are you an English Language Learner? (Yes; No; I'm not sure; Prefer not to say)
- Think about your life lately. How much has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you? (1 = Not at all; 2 = A little bit; 3 = Somewhat; 4 = Moderately; 5 = Significantly)
- At the beginning of the survey you said that you are attending class both at home and at school... (Only asked of students who answered "Both in-person at school and virtually" to the "how have you attended classes" question.)
  - Right now, I am taking this survey (In-person at school, Virtually, Other)
- Do you consider yourself to be: (Please check one) (Gay or lesbian; Straight or heterosexual; Bisexual\*; Another identity not included above (optional, please describe); I am not sure; Prefer not to say) \*A person who is attracted to people of the same or other genders.
- Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual) community? (Please check only one) \* (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)
- Are you transgender? (Please check only one) (Yes; No; Prefer not to say)

## Student Survey – Elementary School

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The elementary school student survey (for students in grades 3 and above) asks questions about students' overall school experience and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. Administrators receive comprehensive reports, along with indexed qualitative comments.

So far this school year, how have you attended classes? (*At school; At home; Both in-person at school and at home*)

### Strengths & Weaknesses

- What do you like most about your school? (*My teacher wants me to try hard and do my best; My teacher cares about me and helps me; Students show respect in class; My class makes me really think; I like the way we learn in class; Something else; Nothing – I can't think of anything I like about my school*)
- What do you dislike most about your school? (*My teacher lets me give up and not do my best; My teacher doesn't care about me or help me very much; Students don't show much respect in class; My class doesn't really make me think; I don't like the way we learn in class; Something else; Nothing – I can't think of anything I dislike about my school*)

**Engagement** – *Describes the degree to which students perceive themselves as engaged with their school and their education*

- Does your teacher ask you to keep trying when the work gets hard? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)
- Do you like attending your class? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)
- Do you think your teacher wants you to work your hardest? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)
- Does your teacher want you to do your best? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)

**Relationships** – *Describes the degree to which the teacher supports students' academic success through positive interpersonal interactions.*

- Does your teacher give you extra help if you need it? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)
- Do you like the way your teacher treats you when you need help? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)
- Do you think your teacher cares about you? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)
- Is your teacher fair to you? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)
- Does your teacher ask you about your life at home? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)
- Does your teacher treat you with respect? (*No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often*)
- When I'm feeling upset, there is an adult from school I can talk to. (*No; Sometimes; Yes*)

**Culture** – Describes the degree to which the teacher develops a classroom environment premised on respect, motivation, and organization.

- Does your class stay busy and not waste time? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Do students behave well during class? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Do students from your class treat the teacher with respect? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Do adults from your school respect people from different backgrounds? (For example: boys or girls, people with different skin colors, people from different countries) *(No, not very much; Somewhat; Yes, very much)*

Related:

Do you feel safe during school? *(No, not very safe; Somewhat; Yes, very safe)*

**Academic Challenge** – Describes the degree to which teachers encourage strong academic work ethic and critical thinking skills.

- Do you learn interesting things in class? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Does what you learn during class help you outside of school? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Does your schoolwork make you really think? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Do you learn a lot in your class? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*

**Instructional Methods** – Describes the degree to which the teacher uses techniques that probe for absorption and understanding, providing effective support to students when needed.

- Does your teacher let you explain your ideas? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- When you make a mistake, does your teacher help you correct it? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Can you find the things you need in your classroom? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)* *(Only asked of students who attend school in-person.)*
- Does your teacher tell you that you can do well if you work hard? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Does your teacher explain things in ways you can understand? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Does your teacher ask you to show your work? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*
- Does your teacher ask you if you understand what you are learning? *(No, hardly ever; Sometimes; Yes, very often)*

**Belonging** – Describes the degree to which the students feel a sense of belonging during their school.

- Can you be yourself with other students? *(No, hardly ever; Somewhat; Yes, very often)*
- Are students friendly to you? *(No, hardly ever; Somewhat; Yes, very often)*
- Do you feel like a real part of your school community? *(No, hardly ever; Somewhat; Yes, very often)*

**Bullying Questions** – Questions about bullying are included as part of Belonging & Peer Collaboration in YouthTruth reports.

- Has anyone bullied you at school in the last year? *(Yes, No, I don't know; Skip this question)*
- If yes: When you were bullied did someone... *(Yes, No, I don't know)*
  - ...spread rumors or lies about you?
  - ...call you mean names?
  - ...hurt your body?
  - ...post something mean about you online?
  - ...Other (please specify)
- If yes: Students bully each other for a lot of reasons – and being bullied is not your fault. To help your school understand the problem, do you think it happened because... *(Yes, No, I don't know)*  
*(How you look; Your race or skin color; Because you are a boy; Because you are a girl; Because you are different than most boys; Because you are different than most girls; How much money your family has; You learn differently than other students; You physically can't do what other kids can do; Your religion; Where Your family is from; Other; Prefer not to say)*
- If yes: When you were bullied, did you tell... *(Yes, No, I don't know)* *(A grown up from school; A grown up at home; A friend or classmate; I did not tell anyone; Someone else (please specify))*

Students are shown the following language in the survey to clarify that if a student is in crisis, leaving a comment in the survey is not the place to get help: If these questions make you feel sad or scared about anything, please talk to your teacher or a grown up you trust.

**Emotional and Mental Health** – Describes signs of depression, as well as students' consideration of suicide. Themes include students' approaches to coping and ability to find help at school.

When I'm feeling upset, *(No; Sometimes; Yes)*

- ...there is an adult outside of school I can talk to.
- ...I know some ways to make myself feel better.

Think about your life lately. How happy have you been feeling this week? *(Happy all the time; Sometimes happy; Never happy)*

Think about your life lately. How relaxed have you been feeling this week? *(Never relaxed; Sometimes relaxed; Relaxed all the time)*

Think about your life lately. How sad have you been feeling this week? *(Never sad; Sometimes sad; Sad all the time)*

Think about your life lately. How stressed have you been feeling this week? *(Never stressed; Sometimes stressed; Stressed all the time)*

Overall, how do you feel about your life? *(Happy to sad emoticon scale)*

## Demographics

- What grade are you in? *(3rd; 4th; 5th, Others)*
- Are you a... *(Boy; Girl; Skip this question)*

# YouthTruth

STUDENT SURVEY

A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

- What is your race/ethnicity? (*American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous; Asian or Asian American; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino/a/x; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White; Two or more races; Other; I don't know; Skip this question*)
- Think about your life lately. How much has the virus changed your life? (*Not very much; Somewhat; Very much*)
- At the beginning of the survey you said that you are attending class both at home and at school... (*Only asked of students who answered "Both in-person at school and at home" to the above question.*)
  - Right now, I am taking this survey (*At school; At home; Other*)