

Boston Public Schools

District Results from the 2009-2010 Student School Climate Survey

In May of 2010, the Office of Research, Assessment & Evaluation administered the second annual Student School Climate Survey to students in grades 3-12 across the district. The survey was administered via paper & pencil. Across the district, 23,840 surveys were returned out of a total of 41,491 sent out, resulting in a district-wide response rate of 57.5%. This is an increase of 4.2 percentage points from the 2008-2009 administration. Table 1 displays response rates by school level. The response rates vary by school level, with younger students responding at a higher rate than older students.

Table 1. Response rates for 2009-2010 Student School Climate Survey by school level

| | Surveys returned | Surveys sent | Response rate |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Elementary Schools | 6610 | 8836 | 74.8% |
| K-8 Schools | 4844 | 7084 | 68.4% |
| Middle Schools | 2976 | 5298 | 56.2% |
| High Schools | 9380 | 20273 | 46.3% |
| Unidentified Schools | 30 | | |
| TOTAL | 23840 | 41491 | 57.5% |

Response rates for the student survey also varied widely by individual school. Twenty-five schools did not return any student surveys. Table 2 displays the response rates for each school.

Table 2. Response rates for 2009-2010 Student School Climate Survey by school

| School Name | Surveys Returned | Response Rate |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Adams Elementary | 84 | 94.4% |
| Agassiz Elementary | 163 | 73.8% |
| Alighieri Elementary | 59 | 92.2% |
| Another Course to College | 0 | 0.0% |
| Bates Elementary | 130 | 87.8% |
| Beethoven | 101 | 95.3% |
| Blackstone Elementary | 228 | 90.1% |
| Boston Adult Tech Acad | 38 | 13.1% |
| Boston Arts Academy | 0 | 0.0% |
| Boston Comm Lead Acad | 255 | 61.4% |
| Boston Day Academy | 0 | 0.0% |
| Boston Evening Academy | 0 | 0.0% |
| Boston International | 0 | 0.0% |
| Boston Latin Academy | 1501 | 86.4% |
| Boston Latin School | 2191 | 92.5% |
| Bradley Elementary | 128 | 93.4% |
| Brighton High | 519 | 43.5% |
| Brook Farm Academy | 33 | 10.2% |
| BTU Pilot | 48 | 94.1% |
| Burke High | 0 | 0.0% |
| Carter Center | 0 | 0.0% |
| Channing Elementary | 141 | 85.5% |
| Charlestown High | 0 | 0.0% |
| Chittick Elementary | 107 | 76.4% |
| Clap Elementary | 71 | 93.4% |
| Comm Acad Sci Health | 127 | 32.4% |
| Community Academy | 0 | 0.0% |
| Community Transition | 0 | 0.0% |
| Condon Elementary | 286 | 82.2% |
| Conley Elementary | 66 | 71.7% |
| Curley K-8 | 225 | 47.6% |
| Dearborn Middle | 256 | 85.9% |
| Dever Elementary | 181 | 88.7% |
| Dorchester Academy | 161 | 39.2% |
| East Boston High | 558 | 41.9% |

| School Name | Surveys Returned | Response Rate |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Edwards Middle | 389 | 79.1% |
| Eliot K-8 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Ellis Elementary | 116 | 84.7% |
| Emerson Elementary | 62 | 48.1% |
| Engineering School | 0 | 0.0% |
| English High | 0 | 0.0% |
| Everett Elementary | 63 | 46.3% |
| Excel High | 281 | 75.7% |
| Farragut Elementary | 103 | 96.3% |
| Fenway High | 233 | 80.3% |
| Fifield Elementary | 128 | 80.5% |
| Frederick Pilot Middle | 351 | 52.8% |
| Gardner Pilot Academy | 0 | 0.0% |
| Gavin Middle | 0 | 0.0% |
| Greater Egleston | 0 | 0.0% |
| Greenwood, Elihu Elem | 170 | 89.5% |
| Greenwood, Sarah K-8 | 173 | 94.0% |
| Grew Elementary | 104 | 79.4% |
| Guild Elementary | 84 | 62.2% |
| Hale Elementary | 75 | 98.7% |
| Haley Elementary | 122 | 98.4% |
| Harbor School | 0 | 0.0% |
| Harvard Kent Elementary | 179 | 81.7% |
| Henderson Elementary | 93 | 88.6% |
| Hennigan Elementary | 267 | 87.3% |
| Hernandez K-8 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Higginson Lewis K-8 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Holland Elementary | 0 | 0.0% |
| Holmes Elementary | 78 | 61.4% |
| Horace Mann | 68 | 68.7% |
| Hurley K-8 | 154 | 96.3% |
| Irving Middle | 410 | 69.3% |
| Jackson Mann K-8 | 281 | 61.9% |
| Kennedy Health Careers | 192 | 89.7% |
| Kennedy, John F Elemen | 154 | 86.0% |

| School Name | Surveys Returned | Response Rate |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Kennedy, Patrick Elem | 92 | 97.9% |
| Kenny Elementary | 144 | 97.3% |
| Kilmer K-8 | 233 | 96.3% |
| King K-8 | 231 | 96.7% |
| Lee Academy | 103 | 95.4% |
| Lee Elementary | 162 | 89.5% |
| Lyndon K-8 | 237 | 76.2% |
| Lyon 9-12 | 24 | 100.0% |
| Lyon K-8 | 79 | 94.0% |
| Madison Park High | 962 | 75.7% |
| Manning Elementary | 60 | 87.0% |
| Marshall Elementary | 182 | 63.6% |
| Mason Elementary | 69 | 81.2% |
| Mather Elementary | 228 | 90.1% |
| Mattahunt Elementary | 212 | 83.8% |
| McCormack Middle | 448 | 71.6% |
| McKay K-8 | 459 | 97.7% |
| McKinley Elementary | 34 | 85.0% |
| McKinley Middle | 42 | 61.8% |
| McKinley Prep High Sch | 38 | 36.5% |
| McKinley So. End Acad | 99 | 45.8% |
| Media Comm Tech High | 71 | 20.5% |
| Mendell Elementary | 0 | 0.0% |
| Middle School Academy | 19 | 40.4% |
| Mildred Avenue K-8 | 598 | 85.7% |
| Mission Hill K-8 | 60 | 58.8% |
| Monument High | 125 | 39.3% |
| Mozart Elementary | 61 | 95.3% |
| Murphy K-8 | 595 | 92.7% |
| New Mission High | 116 | 45.5% |
| Newcomers Academy | 127 | 59.1% |

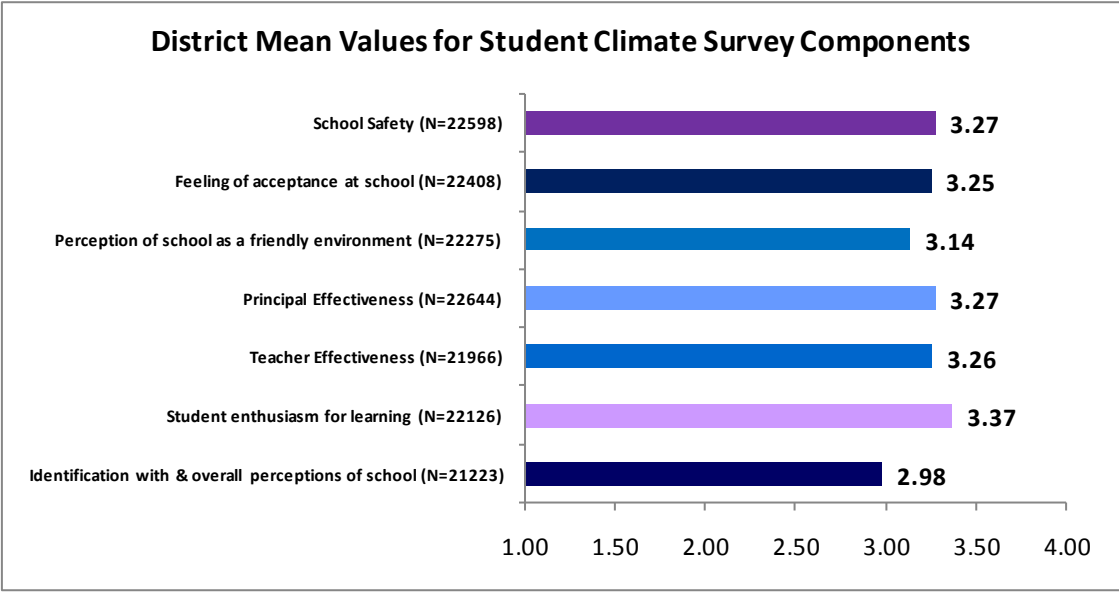
| School Name | Surveys Returned | Response Rate |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| OBryant Math & Sci. | 823 | 69.5% |
| ODonnell Elementary | 71 | 64.0% |
| Odyssey High | 105 | 30.6% |
| Ohrenberger | 302 | 79.1% |
| Orchard Gardens K-8 | 220 | 44.7% |
| Otis Elementary | 0 | 0.0% |
| Parkway Tech & Health | 105 | 34.9% |
| Perkins Elementary | 78 | 95.1% |
| Perry K-8 | 105 | 73.4% |
| Philbrick Elementary | 57 | 98.3% |
| Quincy Elementary | 349 | 88.8% |
| Quincy Upper School | 257 | 52.4% |
| Rogers Middle | 0 | 0.0% |
| Roosevelt K-8 | 224 | 87.5% |
| Russell Elementary | 147 | 85.5% |
| Snowden International | 0 | 0.0% |
| Social Justice Academy | 84 | 27.9% |
| Sumner Elementary | 0 | 0.0% |
| Taylor Elementary | 202 | 83.1% |
| TechBoston Acad | 209 | 27.5% |
| Timilty Middle | 598 | 87.6% |
| Tobin K-8 | 161 | 58.3% |
| Trotter Elementary | 145 | 91.2% |
| Tynan Elementary | 85 | 70.8% |
| Umana Middle | 463 | 90.4% |
| Urban Science Academy | 146 | 46.5% |
| Warren Prescott K-8 | 269 | 94.4% |
| Winship Elementary | 93 | 98.9% |
| Winthrop Elementary | 123 | 85.4% |
| Young Achievers K-8 | 80 | 22.7% |

Using Principal Component Analysis, we determined that student responses clustered into seven component variables that summarize perceptions about the following areas of school climate¹:

- 1) Identification with and overall perceptions of school
- 2) Student enthusiasm for learning
- 3) Teacher effectiveness
- 4) Principal effectiveness
- 5) Perception of school as a friendly environment
- 6) Feeling of acceptance at school
- 7) School Safety

Responses for questions comprising each variable could range from a 1 to a 4, with 1 indicating a negative response to the component variable and 4 indicating a positive response. Figure 1 presents district averages for these component variables. On average, students across the district responded relatively positively to all 7 components of the survey. Identification with and overall perceptions of school was rated the lowest of the components, while student enthusiasm for learning was rated the highest.

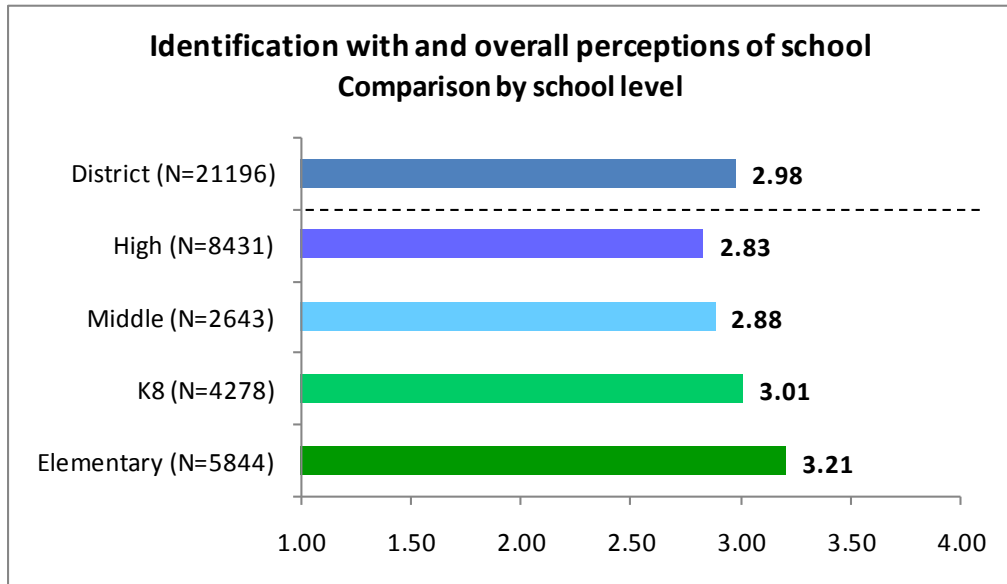
Figure 1. District averages of 7 primary component variables from the 2009-2010 Student School Climate Survey



District average component values varied by school level, with younger students responding more positively than older students to components related to identification with school, enthusiasm for learning, and teacher and principal effectiveness, while older students responded more positively to measures of school safety. Students across all grades responded similarly to measures of school environment and feeling of acceptance at schools.

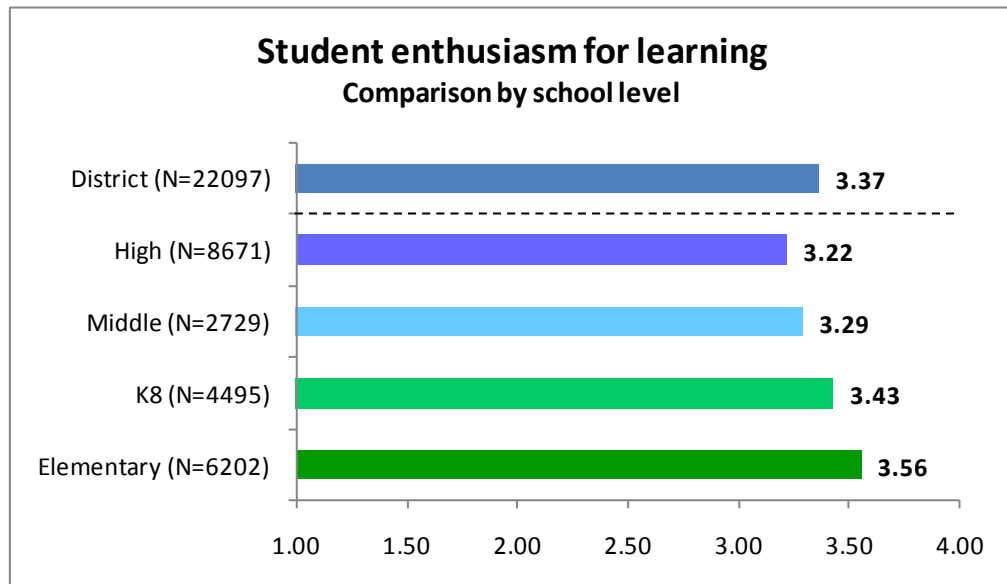
¹ See Appendix A for a description of the items that comprise each component variable

Figure 2. Averages by school level for Component 1: Identification with and overall perceptions of school



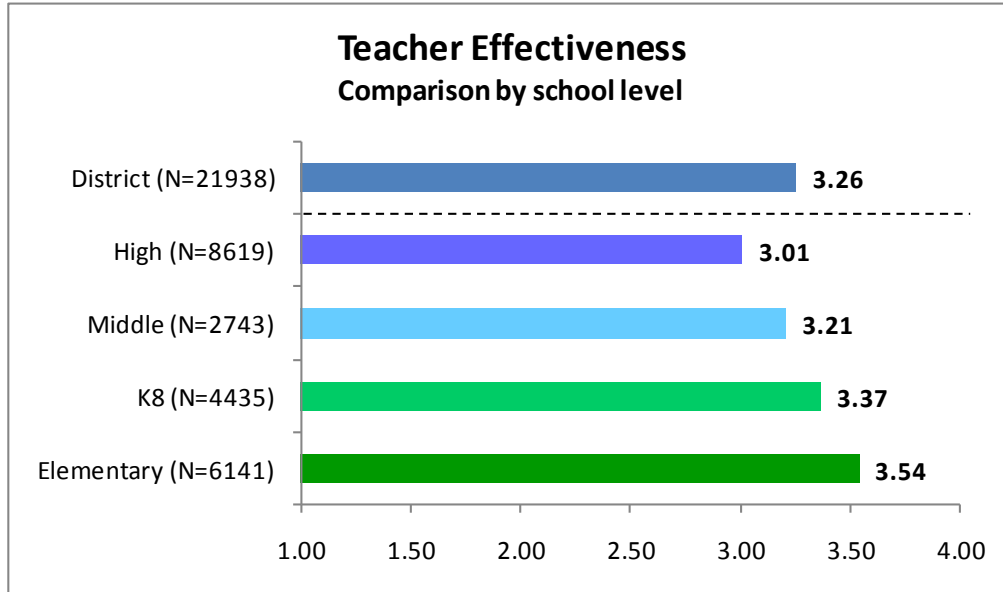
- The district average value for identification with and overall perceptions of school decreased as students’ age increased, indicating that younger students responded more positively than older students to measures associated with identification with and overall perceptions of school.

Figure 3. Averages by school level for Component 2: Student enthusiasm for learning



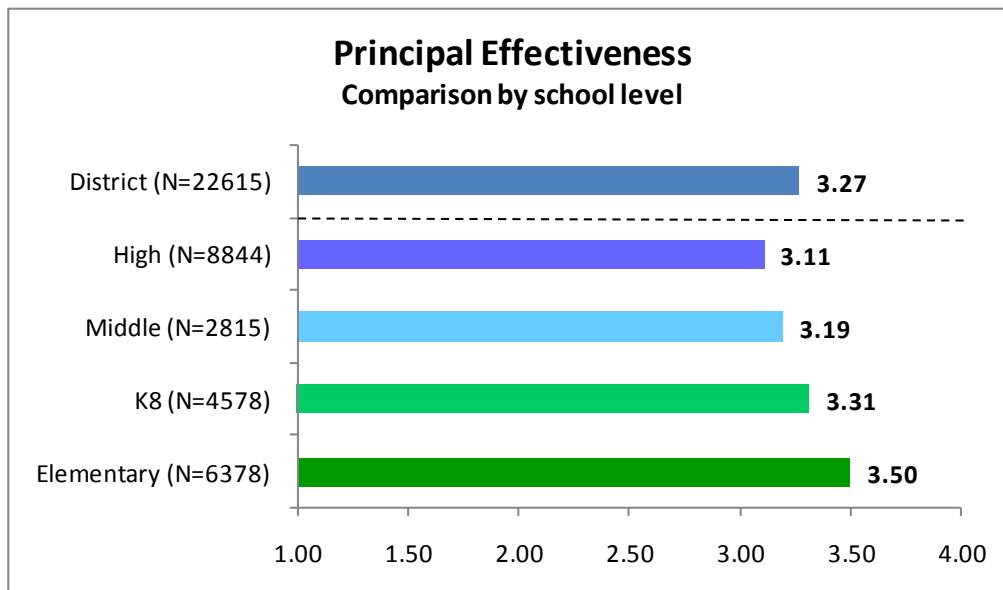
- The district average value for student enthusiasm for learning decreased as students’ age increased, indicating that younger students responded more positively than older students to measures associated with student enthusiasm for learning.

Figure 4. Averages by school level for Component 3: Teacher Effectiveness



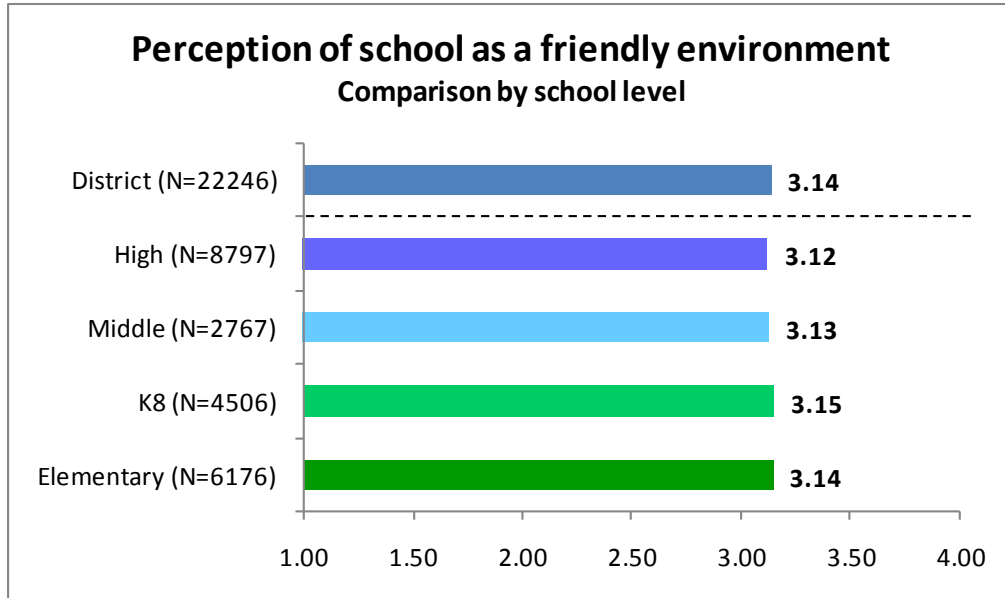
- The district average value for teacher effectiveness decreased as students' age increased, indicating that younger students responded more positively than older students to measures associated with teacher effectiveness.

Figure 5. Averages by school level for Component 4: Principal Effectiveness



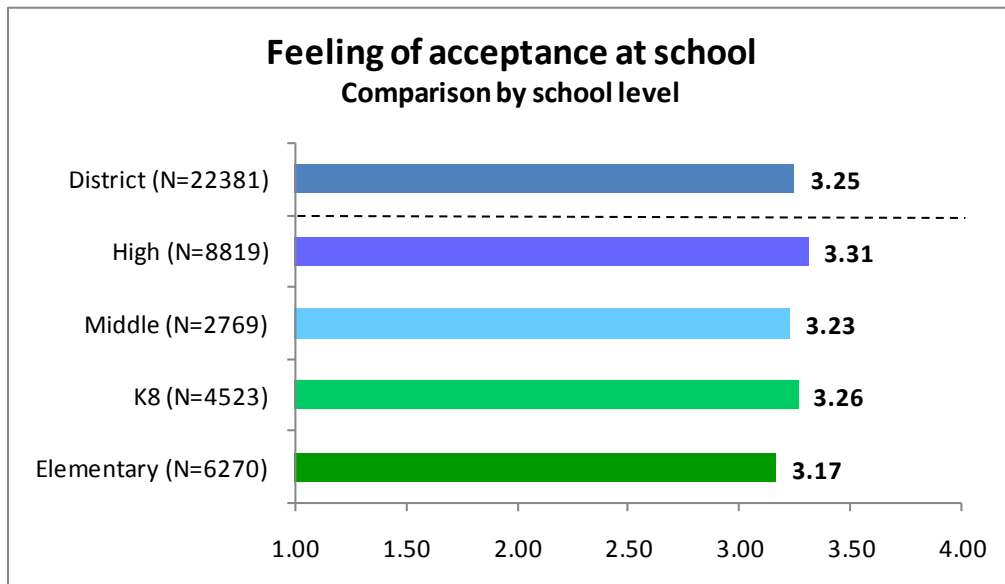
- The district average value for principal effectiveness decreased as students' age increased, indicating that younger students responded more positively than older students to measures associated with principal effectiveness.

Figure 6. Averages by school level for Component 5: Perception of school as a friendly environment



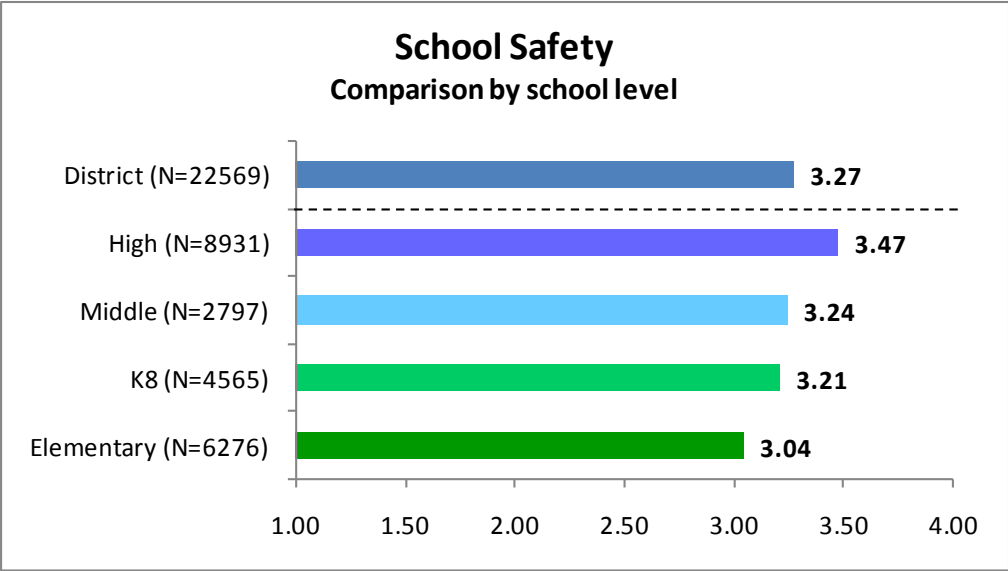
- The district average value for perception of school as a friendly environment was generally the same across school levels, indicating students at all school levels have similar perceptions of school as a friendly environment.

Figure 7. Averages by school level for Component 6: Feeling of acceptance at school



- The district average value for feeling of acceptance at school was generally similar across school levels, indicating students at all school levels have similar feelings of acceptance at school.

Figure 8. Averages by school level for Component 7: School Safety



- The district average value for school safety increased as students' age increased, indicating that younger students responded more negatively than older students to measures associated with school safety.

Appendix A. Student survey items included in each component.

Component 1: Identification with and overall perceptions of school (Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree)

- This school is a good place for me to learn
- My school is getting me ready for the next grade or college
- The things I learn in school are valuable to me
- I usually look forward to my classes
- The classes I am taking will be useful in the future
- I brag about my school to friends who do not attend this school
- I would recommend this school to my friends
- I enjoy going to school every day
- I am proud to be a student at this school
- School is a place where I feel like I belong
- The majority of students demonstrate respect towards the teacher(s)

Component 2: Student enthusiasm for learning (Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree)

- I work hard to make good grades on my assignments
- I pay attention in class
- When I am in class, I concentrate on doing my work
- When I am in class, I work as hard as I can
- It is important to succeed in my classes
- I am interested in learning new things
- I participate in class activities
- I complete homework assignments

Component 3: Teacher effectiveness (Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree)

- My teacher(s) works hard to help me learn
- My teacher(s) does a good job letting me know how I am doing in class
- My teacher(s) is doing a good job
- My teacher(s) is fair to me
- My teacher(s) expects me to make good grades
- My teacher(s) requests student feedback/input on how the lesson went
- My teacher(s) provides daily opportunities for students to contribute in class

Component 4: Principal effectiveness (Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree)

- The principal wants to make things better at my school
- The principal cares about students
- The principal sets a good example for students
- The principal takes the time to talk with students about things besides discipline

Component 5: Perception of school as a friendly environment (Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree)

- I make friends easily at school
- Other students at school seem to like me
- People at school care about me

Component 6: Feeling of acceptance at school (Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree)

- I feel lonely at school
- I feel awkward and out of place at school

Component 7: School Safety (Never to Always)

- Are you ever afraid at school
- Do other students treat you with respect
- Do other students tease you or make fun of you