

WCSD Staff and Student Survey FAQs

Staff Climate Survey

1. Why should we take the Staff Climate Survey?

One of the Interim Superintendent's key waypoints on the Pathway to Positive Progress is increasing staff morale in our district. This survey provides all school staff the opportunity to tell us about the climate and working conditions of their school site. School and district leadership use this information to understand the conditions for learning and if our staff has all of the supports they need at their school. Having a positive staff climate is associated with better student academic and social and emotional outcomes for students and reduced turnover among staff.

2. I can't tell if the staff survey invite is spam or not since it says it's coming from Ben Hayes, but the actual email address is support+washoe@panoramaed.com. Is it safe to click on the survey link?

Yes, this survey link is safe to click on. Panorama is the survey vendor who hosts the survey and tracks response rates.

3. I would like to encourage my staff to participate. Can I forward my survey invite to my staff to promote participation?

Please do not forward your personal invite to other staff. Each staff member receives a unique link to the survey that can only be used once. If you take the survey and forward your link to additional staff, no one else will be able to use that link. Our survey vendor does it that way so they can track response rates and only send reminders to staff who have not yet completed the survey. It can be frustrating to get multiple reminders for a survey you have already taken, so we try to reduce the email burden by only sending reminders to staff who have not yet participated.

You can remind your staff to look for an email from Ben Hayes on the following dates for a link to their survey:

- Nov 12 @ 7am
- Nov 21 @ 2pm
- Dec 3 @ 7am
- Dec 12 @ 2pm
- Dec 18 @ 7am (Final reminder)

4. Some of my staff are reporting that when they click on the staff survey link in their email, they need an access code or it says it has already been completed. What should I do?

Please email ldavidson@washoeschools.net if this happens. Most likely, they are trying to access a link that has been forwarded to them by someone else who has already taken the survey (see #3 response above). The staff survey does not need an access code, but they will get that error message if they are trying to access an already completed survey.

5. I see you ask for my role and how many years I have worked at the school. Doesn't that make me identifiable if I am the only principal/counselor/ETS/etc. at my school? Is the survey really confidential?

Yes! The survey is completely confidential, and there is no way to track how an individual responded on the survey. At the very end of the survey, the survey vendor (Panorama) compiles a district report that tells us how all teachers in the district responded on questions vs. all principals vs. all counselors, etc.. That is the only way the role and other staff demographic information is ever reported. School-level reports do NOT break down any responses by role or any other staff demographics. Click [here](#) to see the district-level reports so you can see exactly what happens to that information.

6. What response rate should I have as a goal on the Staff Climate Survey?

Anywhere between 70-80% is a great goal for the Staff Climate Survey and will insure you have a representative sample of staff taking the survey.

7. Some of my staff are saying they never got the survey. What should I do?

Please contact ldavidson@washoeschools.net and she will send them a link ASAP.

Student Climate Survey

1. Why should we have students take the Student Climate Survey?

Having a positive school climate is critically important for student learning. We use the data for all kinds of research at the district level, and schools use the information to see where additional climate supports are needed. You can see some of the district research at <http://www.wcsddata.net/> (e.g., EL data and previous Data Summit presentations). National and local research overwhelmingly conclude that students who feel engaged, respected, supported, and safe have far better academic and social and emotional outcomes than students who do not have these positive conditions for learning in place.

2. How do I access the survey for students?

The WCSD School Climate website has all the resources you need to have your students participate in the survey: <https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/13663>

But, all you really need is the link to the survey and their student ID number to begin: <https://surveys.panoramaed.com/washoe>

Don't forget to send out passive consent forms to families at least a week in advance!

3. What is the access code for students?

The access code is just the student's ID number.

4. What grade levels take the Student Climate Survey?

Grades 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11 take the Student Climate Survey. However, if your high school received a Social Worker grant, the state requires students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 to participate in the survey with a 75% response rate to maintain their funding.

Note there is an optional survey for grades 2-4 if your school is interested in participating. Contact ldavidson@washoeschools.net for more information.

5. I have a student whose ID isn't working. What should I do?

They likely are new to the school as of 10/14 when the roster was pulled. Please contact ldavidson@washoeschools.net if an ID does not work, and she will either opt the student out or set up a survey for them, depending on the circumstances.

6. I have a student whose school is listed incorrectly. What should I do?

Please direct the student to take the survey for YOUR school, not their previous school. Then send the student ID number to ldavidson@washoeschools.net so she can switch the school name on the back end.

7. What response rate do I need for the Student Climate Survey?

At least a 75% response rate is ideal for the Student Climate Survey.

8. How can I tell which students have taken the survey or not?

All principals received a link to an online dashboard where they can track response rates live (look for an email from Panorama Education. But, you can also email ldavidson@washoeschools.net, and she can send you a list as well.

Thank you for all the work you and your staff put into making this project successful!