



The School Climate Thermometer™ ***A New Tool for Bullying Prevention and Intervention***

Background

The School Climate Thermometer™ is a 35-question survey that builds on research-based knowledge of bullying prevention within school settings. The instrument measures three areas: bullying behaviors, upstander efficacy, and school connectedness. The survey is a simple yet powerful tool that will enhance your bullying prevention and school climate efforts.

The School Climate Thermometer™ is unique in the following ways:

- It is developmentally appropriate for middle school students (ages 11-14).
- It uses clear and simple language to accommodate students' varying reading abilities.
- It intentionally avoids the term “bullying”, but asks about specific student behaviors and attitudes (this allows the data to portray a clearer picture, free from the “hype” that surrounds bullying)
- It is shorter than many other measures and easier to implement during the school day.
- It is designed to provide statistically reliable information to “take the temperature” of your school climate and inform school-based bullying prevention efforts.

Survey Development

The survey design was tested with hundreds of middle school students. The instrument was carefully reviewed by middle school educators, school counselors, and ELL teachers. Significant attention was given to simplifying the language of the survey so that it can be easily understood by students of varying reading abilities. The survey contains multiple choice and open-ended questions, and questions that use a Likert-type scale.

Administration of the Survey

The survey is administered online via Survey Monkey. The survey does collect identifying information so that we can provide advanced statistical analysis on the data. However, student responses are confidential. Privacy will be respected, and we will provide only aggregate information to school staff.

Survey Creators

Christa M. Tinari of PeacePraxis Educational Services, and Dr. Laura Roberts of Right Angle Research, developed the survey. Dr. Laura Roberts is an Educational Researcher who is skilled in research methods, survey design, and program evaluation. She is passionate about helping teachers create emotionally positive classrooms. Christa M. Tinari, MA, is a Safe Schools Specialist who has worked closely with thousands of students and educators. She is a former School Counselor, who now facilitates school climate projects and school-based bullying prevention and intervention programs at schools across the country. Ms. Tinari is creator of The Peaceful Schools Institute™ and the Feel and Deal™ Activity Deck, a Certified Trainer of the Middle School Second Step curriculum, and Adjunct Instructor of Education at Temple University and The College of NJ.