



**SUMMARY OF 2005-2006 THROUGH 2007-2008
AISD STAFF CLIMATE SURVEY RESULTS**

COVINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A healthy school climate is characterized by positive relationships among students, all campus staff, and the community. School climate is a key factor in several important outcomes such as student achievement, reduced violence, higher morale, and faculty trust (Hoy, Smith, & Sweetland, 2002). More specifically, research in Austin ISD indicates that staff climate survey results are related to student TAKS performance in both math and reading (Schmitt, 2006; Bush-Richards, Cornetto, & Schmitt, 2008). The AISD Staff Climate Survey was developed from the research-based Organizational Climate Inventory (OCI), which measures four sub-dimensions of climate (Hoy et al., 2002) called *External Influences*, *Collegial Leadership*, *Professional Teacher Behavior*, and *Achievement Press*. In addition to the published OCI items, the staff climate survey includes a series of climate items and safety items designed for relevance to all campus staff. Related items are grouped together in *subscales*, and the average across the items is computed as a *subscale score*. Subscale scores have been averaged to provide an overall climate score.

While changes between years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 were not statistically significant, some patterns in the data were noted. Compared to last year, responses across all middle schools were more favorable in 2007-08 for *Collegial Leadership* and *General Climate*. However, high schools staff perceptions of *Positive Behavior Support* declined, while *Overall Climate*, *Professional Teacher Behavior*, *Achievement Press*, and *Safety* remained unchanged. Your campus results for the OCI climate areas and for additional climate and safety items are summarized in the following report. Longitudinal results may indicate trends in staff perceptions of school climate over time. Scores flagged with up or down arrows indicate that a change from the previous year was statistically meaningful.¹ Also, some improvements were made to the campus staff climate survey instrument for 2006-2007; thus, data are not available for 2005-06 for some items as indicated in the tables with an asterisk (*).

Table 1. Survey Respondents

	2005-2006 # of Covington MS Respondents	2006-2007 # of Covington MS Respondents	2007-2008 # of Covington MS Respondents	2007-2008 # of All MS Respondents
Teacher	40	44	58	836
Administrator or Other Non-Teaching Professional	6	2	4	103
Classified/Support Staff	1	4	12	299
Unspecified	5	1	4	101

¹ Effect sizes (Cohen's d) were calculated using the means from 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. Effect sizes are a measure of the magnitude of the difference between two means. Mean differences were flagged as meaningful where d > .18.

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Table 2. Subscale Scores for OCI and Additional Subscales

	Overall Climate	External Influences	Collegial Leadership	Professional Teacher Behavior	Achievement Press	General Climate	Positive Behavior Support	Safety
Covington MS 2005-06	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Covington MS 2006-07	3.03	2.63	3.10	3.32	2.89	3.25	3.31	3.31
	2.84 ^â	2.83 ^â	3.19	3.09 ^â	2.49 ^â	2.92 ^â		

Note: It is desirable to have an average response of at least 3.0, indicated in **bold** type. ^aItem was reverse-scored such that a response of “Rarely Occurs” was scored as a 4. ^â ^â indicate increases and decreases from the previous year.

Note: It is desirable to have an average response of at least 3.0, indicated in **bold** type. ^a

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Safety. The frequency and prevalence of undesirable student behaviors have been combined to form a score that indicates the overall staff perception of student behaviors. Scores have been converted to range from 1 (least desirable) to 4 (most desirable).

Table 10. Results for Safety Subscale Score

	Covington MS Avg 2005-06	Covington MS Avg 2006-07	Covington MS Avg 2007-08	All MS Average 2007-08
Safety Subscale Score	*	3.31	2.48â	2.63

Positive Student Behaviors and Staff Reinforcement of Positive Student Behaviors.

This subscale measures the frequency and prevalence of positive student behavior and staff reinforcement of positive behaviors. Average scores for each item are shown in the table that follows.

Table 11. Results for Positive Student Behavior and Behavior Support

To the best of your knowledge, how often do the following events occur at your school?	Covington MS Avg 2005-06	Covington MS Avg 2006-07	Covington MS Avg 2007-08	All MS Average 2007-08
45. ^a Commendable student behavior	3.5	3.42	3.38	3.16
46. ^a Staff reinforcement of commendable student behavior	3.4	3.47	3.22â	3.09
To the best of your knowledge, how many students or staff exhibit the following behaviors?				
54. ^b Commendable student behavior	3.1	3.18	3.03	2.86
55. ^b Staff reinforcement of commendable student behaviors	3.5	3.94	3.33â	3.35
Positive Behavior Support Subscale Score*	*	3.31	3.12â	3.02

The first step in improving campus climate is to look at your school's score for each of the climate subscales (shown in Table 2 on page 2). These will help you to identify areas where