

Research indicates that school climate can either be a positive influence on students' learning environment, or can serve as a significant barrier to students' learning. Indeed, elementary school teachers in Austin Independent School District (AISD) whose students provided positive ratings of behavioral environment, teacher support, adult fairness and respect, and academic self-confidence had students who made greater growth on TAKS in 2009-2010 than did their peers whose students rated school climate less favorably.*



of surveys returned

of students

% of students represented

1. My classmates show respect to each other.	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0
2. My classmates show respect to other students who are different.	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0
3. I am happy with the way my classmates treat me.	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3
13. Students at my school follow the school rules.	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7
14. I feel safe at my school.	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2
15. I feel safe on the school property.	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.2
29. My classmates behave the way my teachers want them to.	n/a	n/a	2.7	2.7
30. Our classes stay busy and do not waste time.	n/a	n/a	2.9	2.9
Behavioral environment average	n/a	n/a	3.0	3.0

Response options ranged from 1 = to 4 = . It is desirable to have a response of at least 3.0. Subscale comparisons across years are no longer available due to the addition of items 29 and 30, which are from the Control subscale of the Tripod survey. The survey was developed by Ron Ferguson and has been administered to schools across the country over the last decade. The Tripod survey was used in the Gates Foundation's Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Project. The survey is designed to assess the degree to which students agree with a variety of statements designed to measure the following dimensions: caring, captivating, conferring, controlling, clarifying, challenging, and consolidating. For more information, please visit: <http://www.metproject.org/partners#cambridge>. Response options for the Tripod items were changed to reflect the 1 = to 4 = scale.

4. Teachers at this school care about their students.	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2
5. Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions.	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0
6. Adults at this school treat all students fairly.	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0
7. The staff in the front office show respect to students.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3
8. There is at least one adult at my school who I would go to if I have a problem.	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.2
10. The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for everyone.	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.1
11. My teachers always make sure the students follow the rules.	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2
12. My teachers believe I can learn.	n/a	3.5	3.4	3.4
20. My teachers believe I can do well in school.	n/a	3.4	3.4	3.4
21. My teachers like to teach.	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.2
27. My teachers are fair to everyone.	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0
Adult fairness and respect average	n/a	3.2	3.2	3.2

Response options ranged from 1 = to 4 = . It is desirable to have a response of at least 3.0.



9. I like to come to school.

