

AISD



**AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STAFF CLIMATE SURVEY RESULTS 2008-2009**

Survey Report SUNSET VALLEY ELEMENTARY

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 including student achievement, reduced violence, higher morale, and faculty trust (Hoy, Smith, & Sweetland, 2002). More specifically, research in AISD indicates that staff climate survey results are related to student Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) performance in both math and reading (Bush-Richards, Cornetto, & Schmitt, 2008; Schmitt, 2006).

The AISD Staff Climate Survey was developed from the research-based Organizational Climate Inventory (OCI), which measures several dimensions of school climate (Hoy et al., 2002) including *Collegial Leadership*, *Professional Teacher Behavior*, and *Achievement Press*. In addition to these items from the OCI, the 2008-2009 AISD Staff Climate Survey included items developed by researchers to measure *Community Engagement* (Tschannen-Moran, Parish, & DiPaola, 2006); climate items designed for relevance to all campus staff; school safety items; and items measuring the implementation of Positive Behavior Support (PBS) on campus. Related items were grouped together in *subscales*, and the average across subscale items was computed as a *subscale score*.

In Fall 2008, 4,216 elementary school staff responded to the survey, representing approximately 77% of elementary campus staff. Table 1 provides a summary of respondents from Sunset Valley by position type for the past 3 years.

Table 1. Survey Respondents for Sunset Valley and All Elementary Campuses by Position Type, 2006-2007 through 2008-2009

	Sunset Valley	All EL
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Source: Department of Program Evaluation survey records, district Human Resources data, and Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) records.

RESULTS FOR S

SCHOOL CLIMATE DIMENSIONS

The first step in improving campus climate is to look at the score for each of the Climate subscales (Table 2). These scores can help in identifying areas in which staff ratings were higher or lower than the desired subscale scores.

For 2008-2009, **the highest Climate subscale for Sunset Valley was Collegial Leadership**. Examine the individual items that make up Collegial Leadership and identify those

Collegial Leadership. Collegial Leadership involves treating teachers and staff as professional colleagues, and with openness, egalitarianism, and friendliness, but at the same time setting clear expectations and standards for performance. This subscale consisted of 7 items that addressed the degree to which the principal met the social needs of the faculty and worked toward achieving the goals of the school. The individual item and average subscale scores for Sunset Valley and for all elementary schools are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Collegial Leadership for Sunset Valley and All Elementary Campuses

Collegial Leadership

Achievement Press. Achievement press is marked by students who persist, strive to achieve, and are respected by each other and teachers for their academic successes. This subscale consisted of 8 items that described the extent to which Sunset Valley has set high but achievable academic standards and goals. In addition, this subscale measured the extent to which parents, teachers, and principals exert pressure for high standards and school improvement. The individual item and average subscale scores for Sunset Valley and for all elementary schools are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Achievement Press for Sunset Valley and All Elementary Campuses

Achievement Press	Sunset Valley			All EL
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2008-2009
3. The school sets high standards for academic performance.	3.52	3.50	3.56	3.53
6. Teachers in this school believe that their students have the ability to achieve academically.	3.38	3.32	3.42	3.40
7. Parents exert pressure to maintain high standards.	2.40	2.08	2.03	2.44
8. Academic achievement is recognized and acknowledged by the school.	3.35	3.10	3.11	3.27
13. Parents press for school improvement.	2.51	2.03	2.26	2.38
15. Students in this school can achieve the goals that have been set for them.	3.23	2.93	3.11	3.13
19. Students respect others who get good grades.	2.98	3.08	3.00	3.02
25. Students seek extra work so they can get good grades.	1.95	1.85	2.23	2.25
32. Students try hard to improve on previous work.	2.79	2.65	2.79	2.72
34. The learning environment is orderly and serious.	3.19	3.24	3.31	3.12
Achievement Press subscale	2.97	2.76	2.89	2.94

Note: It is desirable to have a response of at least 3.0; responses of at least 3.0 are noted in bold.

SCHOOL SAFETY, BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT, AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

The next section of the survey addressed the safety of the school environment for students and staff, including the prevalence of undesirable student behavior on campus, staff satisfaction with how student behavior was managed on each campus, and staff familiarity with issues related to PBS.

Undesirable Student Behaviors. These items measured staff reports about the frequency of selected undesirable student behaviors on campus. The items were rated on a scale of 0 (*never happens*) to 4 (*happens daily*). The individual item and average subscale scores for Sunset Valley and for all elementary schools are shown in Table 8. Items with *high* average responses (above 2.0) should be prioritized for improvement.

Table 8. Undesirable Student Behaviors for Sunset Valley and All Elementary Campuses

To the best of your knowledge, how often do the following events occur at your school?	Sunset Valley			All EL
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2008-2009
40. Student racial tension	0.80	0.63	0.64	.82
41. Student bullying	1.55	1.21	1.71	1.65
42. Widespread disorder in classrooms	0.75	0.59	0.59	.90

PBS. These items were new to the survey in 2008-2009 and addressed staff knowledge and behaviors related to PBS. Response options included *yes*,