

Statewide Snapshot Report
2021 Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions
Teacher's Aides Version

*This is a review copy, not for circulation or use. The actual survey is online with formatting for easier reading. Questions are grouped around working conditions topics (in **BOLD CAPS** below). These topics do not appear in the online survey.*

Instructions for classroom instructors and other school staff members:

This survey is being given to three groups of education professions working in Virginia's public schools:

1. Classroom instructors (teachers and teacher's aides and assistants) whose primary job responsibility is interacting with students in classroom settings;
2. School staff members whose primary job responsibility is interacting with students external to the classroom settings and who hold a state professional license, such as a Collegiate Professional License, a Postgraduate Professional License, or a Pupil Personnel Services License; and,
3. At a school's discretion, school staff members who do not hold a state professional license whose primary job responsibility is not interacting with students in classroom settings.

All classroom instructors and school staff members are asked to complete the survey regardless of the grade level of the students with whom they teach or interact. The purpose of the survey is to help schools create and maintain safe and supportive working environments for education professionals in Virginia's public schools.

Your individual answers to the survey are anonymous, which means that no one will know how you answered. It is important that you submit **only one completed survey** for each school at which you work.

Some of the questions differ for classroom instructors and school staff members. The survey should take you 20-25 minutes to complete.

In order to access the online survey, you must enter the unique Access Code for the adult survey which was assigned to your school. Your principal, or your principal's designee, will have this Access Code for you. All classroom instructors and school staff members at the same school will have the same Access Code, so you will not be identified by this Access Code. It is important that you submit **only one completed survey** for each school at which you work. The administrators of this survey are obligated to protect your identity.

What is your Access Code for taking this survey? _____

SECTION I: GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. You are logging in to the survey as a member of the following school: {display division and school name}. Is this correct?
 - 100% I'm taking this survey. Please include my responses in summary reports.
 - Excluded I'm just looking the survey over. Please do not include my responses in any summary report.
3. What is your primary role in this school? *Mark one.*
 - 0% Teacher
 - 100% Teacher's Assistant, Teaching Assistant, Teacher's Aide, Instructional Aide, Para-educator, Para-Professional

4. How have you provided instruction to students this year? *Mark all that apply.*

- 70% In-person
- 46% Remotely from the school building
- 59% Remotely from somewhere else

SECTION II: TEACHING POSITION

Throughout this survey, the word “teacher” collectively refers to all classroom instructors (teachers and teacher’s aides and assistants).

5. Indicate your primary teaching assignment as well as any secondary teaching assignments you may have.

	Primary Teaching Assignment <i>(Mark one.)</i>	Secondary Teaching Assignments <i>(Mark all that apply.)</i>
Career and technical education	1%	1%
Computer science	1%	<1%
Elementary and early childhood education classroom teacher	40%	6%
English as a Second Language (ESL), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	1%	1%
English language and literature (including composition, creative writing, journalism, reading)	3%	14%
Fine and performing arts (e.g., art, band, chorus, dance, music, theatre)	<1%	1%
Foreign or world language and literature	<1%	<1%
Physical, health, and safety education	2%	1%
Social sciences and history (including civics, economics, geography, government, psychology, sociology)	1%	2%
Mathematics	2%	3%
Science	1%	3%
Special education, exceptional education, gifted education	48%	12%
Other		2%
I have no secondary teaching assignment.		74%

6. *(Ask only of respondents choosing “Teacher” to question 3.)* Please estimate the percent of all the students that you teach who are currently receiving services as English Learners.

Not Applicable

7. *(Ask only of respondents choosing “Teacher” to question 3.)* Please estimate the percent of all the students that you teach who are currently receiving services as a through an IEP or 504 plan.

Not Applicable

8. How many years of teaching experience do you have (including the current school year)? *Mark one.*

1-3 years	4-10 years	11-20 years	More than 20 years
23%	31%	29%	17%

9. (Ask only of respondents choosing "1-3 years" to question 8.) Is this your first year in a teaching position? Mark one.

- 63% Yes
- 31% No
- 6% Prefer not to answer

SECTION III: TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A. TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND AUTONOMY

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
10. I am trusted to make sound professional decisions about instruction.	2%	3%	5%	20%	48%	22%
11. I contribute to decisions about educational issues at my school.	5%	12%	12%	30%	31%	9%
12. I am free to be creative in my teaching approach.	2%	4%	6%	25%	44%	19%
13. I control how I use my scheduled class time.	3%	10%	10%	27%	37%	12%
14. (Ask only of respondents choosing "Teacher" to question 3.) I set the grading and student assessment practices in my classroom.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15. My role as an educator is respected under current policies.	3%	4%	7%	20%	45%	20%
16. Current policies are improving our education system.	4%	8%	14%	31%	33%	11%
17. My scheduled work day includes sufficient planning time.	5%	8%	10%	22%	41%	14%
18. My scheduled work day includes sufficient instructional time to meet the needs of my students.	2%	4%	7%	20%	47%	20%

B. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
19. The physical environment of my classroom supports my teaching and my students' learning.	2%	3%	5%	18%	48%	25%
20. I have adequate space to work productively.	2%	3%	6%	16%	45%	27%
21. The school building is clean and comfortable.	2%	3%	6%	16%	39%	33%
22. I have the support I need to incorporate technology into my instruction.	2%	3%	5%	16%	47%	27%

C. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
23. Students generally like this school.	<1%	1%	2%	14%	54%	30%
24. Students are proud to be at this school.	<1%	1%	2%	18%	50%	28%
25. Students come to school ready to learn.	1%	3%	8%	33%	40%	15%
26. Students are engaged in classroom lessons.	1%	2%	5%	25%	47%	20%

D. RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STUDENTS

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
27. Students at this school care about other students.	<1%	1%	3%	20%	54%	22%
28. Students at this school get along well with other students.	<1%	1%	2%	19%	57%	21%
29. Students at this school treat other students with respect.	<1%	1%	4%	23%	53%	19%
30. Students at this school treat me with respect.	<1%	1%	2%	13%	53%	30%

E. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND ADULTS

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
31. Adults at this school care about students.	<1%	<1%	1%	5%	35%	59%
32. Adults at this school treat students with respect.	<1%	<1%	1%	8%	40%	50%
33. Adults at this school want students to do well.	<1%	<1%	<1%	4%	33%	63%
34. Adults at this school listen to what students have to say.	<1%	<1%	2%	12%	43%	43%
35. Adults at this school recognize and value each individual's cultural background.	1%	1%	3%	11%	41%	44%

F. RIGOROUS INSTRUCTION

The word “teacher” collectively refers to all classroom instructors (teachers and teacher’s aides and assistants).

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
36. Teachers at this school expect students to use facts and evidence to support their ideas.	<1%	<1%	1%	13%	56%	29%
37. Teachers at this school want students to think about different ways to solve problems.	<1%	<1%	1%	10%	52%	36%
38. Teachers at this school encourage students to provide constructive feedback to others.	<1%	1%	4%	18%	52%	26%
39. Teachers at this school encourage students to value and search for a diversity of opinions, perspectives, and abilities.	<1%	1%	3%	16%	50%	29%
40. Teachers at this school often connect what students are learning to life outside the classroom.	<1%	1%	3%	17%	51%	27%
41. The content taught at this school reflects multiple cultural backgrounds, ethnicities, and identities.	1%	2%	5%	18%	47%	27%

SECTION IV: SCHOOL SUPPORTS

A. PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
42. I have sufficient resources for my professional development.	2%	4%	8%	22%	46%	18%
43. The professional development I receive meets my needs.	2%	4%	9%	24%	44%	17%
44. Professional development provides ongoing opportunities for me to work with colleagues to refine my practice.	2%	4%	7%	22%	46%	19%
45. I receive follow-up after professional development activities to give me additional support.	2%	6%	11%	26%	40%	15%
46. Professional development enhances my ability to meet student needs.	1%	3%	5%	21%	48%	21%

B. NEW TEACHER SUPPORTS

(Asked only if answered "1-3 years" to question 8.) Indicate whether new teachers are provided the following supports at your school. Mark one response per line.

	Yes	No	Do not know
47. Formally assigned a mentor	N/A	N/A	N/A
48. Reduced workload	N/A	N/A	N/A
49. Release time to observe other teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A
50. Formal time to meet with mentor during school hours	N/A	N/A	N/A

C. MANAGING STUDENT BEHAVIOR

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? *Mark one response per line.*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
51. Adults at this school understand the rules for student behavior.	1%	1%	3%	12%	52%	31%
52. The rules for student behavior are effective at this school.	2%	3%	7%	21%	46%	21%
53. We use data to evaluate and, if needed, adjust this school's student conduct policies.	1%	3%	7%	21%	49%	19%
54. If a student breaks a school rule, the student's behavior is addressed consistently.	3%	5%	9%	20%	43%	20%
55. This school's use of suspensions or expulsions to manage student behavior is effective.	3%	5%	10%	25%	41%	15%
56. Students know which behaviors are against school rules.	1%	1%	3%	13%	53%	29%
57. Students know there are consequences for breaking school rules.	2%	3%	5%	16%	47%	27%
58. Students are recognized for positive behavior.	<1%	1%	2%	10%	45%	42%
59. When students are accused of doing something wrong, they get a chance to explain.	<1%	1%	2%	12%	56%	30%
60. There are supports to help students who misbehave develop positive behavior.	1%	2%	5%	18%	48%	26%
61. I feel equipped to successfully handle incidents of racially motivated behaviors.	1%	3%	7%	20%	46%	19%
62. I feel equipped to successfully handle incidents of bullying.	1%	2%	5%	20%	51%	22%
63. This school's administrators support me when I have concerns about student behavior.	2%	2%	5%	15%	43%	33%

D. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
64. I make an effort to know the parents/guardians of my students.	1%	2%	5%	19%	47%	27%
65. This school supports my efforts to have positive relationships with parents/guardians.	1%	2%	3%	15%	49%	30%
66. This school does a good job of encouraging parent/guardian involvement.	<1%	1%	3%	14%	47%	35%
67. Parents/guardians and I share common academic and behavior expectations for their children.	1%	3%	7%	24%	46%	19%

E. SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

The word “teacher” collectively refers to all classroom instructors (teachers and teacher’s aides and assistants).

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
68. I feel respected by this school’s administrators.	2%	2%	3%	12%	39%	41%
69. I feel comfortable raising issues and concerns that are important to me with school administrators.	3%	3%	6%	16%	40%	32%
70. I trust this school’s administrators to do what they say they will do.	2%	2%	4%	14%	41%	36%
71. The procedures for teacher evaluation are consistent.	1%	2%	4%	15%	51%	28%
72. Teacher performance is assessed objectively.	1%	1%	3%	15%	52%	27%
73. Teachers receive feedback that can help them improve their performance.	1%	1%	4%	16%	50%	28%
74. This school’s administrators communicate a clear vision for this school.	1%	2%	3%	12%	44%	38%
75. This school’s administrators understand how children learn.	1%	1%	3%	12%	46%	38%
76. This school’s administrators set high expectations for all students.	1%	1%	3%	12%	47%	36%
77. Staff are treated fairly regardless of their race, ethnicity, or culture.	2%	2%	3%	10%	42%	43%
78. My school is committed to providing an inclusive environment for individuals from varied racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.	1%	1%	2%	11%	45%	40%
79. Teachers and administrators have a shared vision for this school.	1%	1%	4%	15%	46%	33%

SECTION V: SAFETY

A. SAFETY CONCERNS

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
80. I feel safe at this school.	1%	1%	2%	11%	45%	41%
81. I feel there is adequate security in this school.	2%	3%	6%	17%	43%	30%
82. I know what to do if there is an emergency, natural disaster (such as a tornado or a flood), or a dangerous situation (such as a violent person on campus) during the school day.	<1%	1%	1%	7%	47%	44%
83. I have been adequately informed about the threat assessment process in my building.	1%	2%	4%	13%	47%	33%

B. PREVALENCE OF BULLYING

*Please use this definition of bullying to answer the questions below. **Bullying means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. ‘Bullying’ includes cyber bullying. ‘Bullying’ does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict.***

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
84. Bullying is a problem at this school.	32%	40%	15%	9%	3%	1%
85. Students at this school are bullied about their race or ethnicity.	36%	42%	13%	6%	2%	1%
86. Students at this school are bullied about their sexual orientation.	37%	43%	11%	6%	2%	1%
87. Students at this school are bullied about their clothing or physical appearance.	30%	40%	14%	11%	4%	1%
88. Students at this school are bullied about their disability.	38%	41%	11%	6%	2%	1%

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
89. Adults at this school bully students.	60%	29%	5%	3%	2%	1%
90. Students ask for help from adults if there is a problem with another student.	1%	2%	4%	23%	49%	21%
91. Adults at this school take action to solve the problem when students report bullying.	2%	1%	2%	11%	48%	36%

C. STUDENT AGGRESSION

Have any of the following happened to you personally at school this year? Mark one response per line.

	No	One Time	More than Once	Many Times
92. A student stole or damaged my personal property.	93%	5%	2%	1%
93. A student threatened to harm me.	91%	4%	3%	1%
94. A student physically attacked, pushed, or hit me.	83%	6%	7%	4%
95. A student said rude or insulting things to me.	69%	11%	14%	5%
96. A student threatened me with a weapon.	98%	1%	1%	<1%

97. Are there gangs at your school? *Mark one.*

- 1% Yes
- 69% No
- 29% Do not know

98. *(Asked only of those that respond "Yes" to question 97.)* Have gangs caused problems at your school this year (e.g., fights, sale of drugs)? *Mark one.*

- 23% Yes
- 39% No
- 37% Do not know

D. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

99. Does your school have a School Resource Officer (SRO)? *Mark one.*

- 54% Yes
- 22% No
- 24% I do not know

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? Mark one response per line.

<i>(Only asked if respondent answered "Yes" to question 99.)</i>	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
100. The school resource officer (SRO) makes me feel safe at this school.	1%	2%	4%	17%	40%	36%
101. The school resource officer (SRO) makes a positive contribution to our school.	1%	2%	3%	14%	40%	40%

SECTION VI: SUMMARY

102. Overall, my school is a good place to work and learn. *(Mark one.)*

- 4% Strongly Disagree
- 1% Disagree
- 2% Somewhat Disagree
- 9% Somewhat Agree
- 38% Agree
- 47% Strongly Agree

103. Over the last two years, the **working conditions for teachers** in this school have... *(Mark one.)*

- 3% become much worse.
- 10% become somewhat worse.
- 33% stayed about the same.
- 13% become somewhat better.
- 18% become much better.
- 24% I have no opinion.

104. *(Asked only of respondents not choosing "stayed about the same" or "I have no opinion" to question 103.)* To what extent do you think COVID-19 contributed to this change in **working conditions for teachers**? *Mark one.*

- 7% Not at all
- 8% Very little
- 26% Some
- 49% Very much
- 11% It is the only reason.

105. Over the last two years, the **overall climate for students** in this school has... *(Mark one.)*

- 2% become much worse.
- 8% become somewhat worse.
- 39% stayed about the same.
- 15% become somewhat better.
- 13% become much better.
- 22% I have no opinion.

106. *(Asked only of respondents not choosing "stayed about the same" or "I have no opinion" to question 105.)* To what extent do you think COVID-19 contributed to this change in the **school climate for students**? *Mark one.*

- 6% Not at all
- 8% Very little
- 27% Some
- 49% Very much
- 10% It is the only reason.

107. Which of the following best describes your immediate professional plans? *Mark one.*

- 85% Continue teaching at my current school
- 3% Continue teaching in this division but leave this school
- 1% Continue teaching in this state but leave this division
- 1% Continue teaching in a state other than Virginia
- 3% Continue working in education but pursue a non-teaching position
- 3% Leave education to retire
- 2% Leave education to work in a non-education field
- 2% Leave education for other reasons

SECTION VII: CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

108. Are you male or female? *Mark one.*

- 8% Male
- 91% Female
- 1% Prefer to self-describe: _____

109. What is the best description of your race? *If you are multi-racial, mark all that apply.*

- 1% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 5% Asian
- 22% Black or African American
- 1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 69% White
- 6% Other Race: _____

110. Is your ethnic background Hispanic or Latino? *Mark one.*

7% Yes

93% No

111. Did you grow up in the school division in which you currently work or in a neighboring school division? *Mark one.*

40% Yes

60% No

112. How would you describe the community in which you grew up? *Mark one.*

34% Rural

41% Suburb

25% City

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this school? *Mark one response per line.*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
113. My division's response to the pandemic was well communicated with staff.	5%	5%	8%	20%	38%	23%
114. My division's overall response to the pandemic was appropriate given the circumstances.	5%	6%	8%	21%	39%	22%
115. I felt comfortable about returning to school this year after the COVID-19 closures.	15%	11%	13%	22%	24%	14%
116. I have sufficient resources to help my students make up the learning lost as a result of COVID-19.	3%	6%	11%	29%	38%	13%

	Yes	No	Do not know
117. The results of the 2019 Virginia Working Conditions Survey have been made readily available to the teachers at this school.	21%	8%	70%
118. The results of previous climate surveys have been made readily available to the teachers at this school.	20%	7%	73%