

2019 Virginia School Climate Survey
Student Version – Grades 6 through 12

Statewide

This report contains the average statewide responses to the 2019 Virginia School Climate Survey administered in January-March 2019 by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in partnership with the University of Virginia, as part of VDOE’s work to support the efforts of schools and divisions to improve school climate.

67% of schools with any grades 9 through 12 participated and 61% of their 9th through 12th graders completed a survey. This report summarizes the survey responses of 140,354 students.

1. What grade are you in this year? *Mark one.*

- 0% 6th Grade
- 0% 7th Grade
- 0% 8th Grade
- 29% 9th Grade
- 26% 10th Grade
- 24% 11th Grade
- 21% 12th Grade

1. ENGAGEMENT

A. EMOTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
2. I like this school.	10%	19%	55%	16%
3. I am proud to be a student at this school.	8%	19%	55%	18%
4. I feel like I belong at this school.	9%	20%	56%	16%

B. ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
5. I usually work hard on my schoolwork.	3%	12%	57%	28%
6. I want to learn as much as I can at school.	3%	9%	55%	33%
7. I learn about important things at school.	6%	21%	58%	15%

C. BEHAVIORAL ENGAGEMENT

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
8. It is important that I come to school every day.	4%	12%	49%	35%
9. I have the opportunity at this school to take part in decision-making.	9%	26%	52%	13%
10. I get to do interesting activities at school.	8%	26%	50%	16%

2. RELATIONSHIPS

A. RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STUDENTS

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
11. I care about other students at this school.	6%	13%	59%	23%
12. I get along well with other students at this school.	4%	11%	65%	21%
13. Other students at this school care about me.	9%	21%	56%	14%
14. Other students at this school get along well with me.	4%	10%	65%	21%
15. [Validity Screening Item] I am telling the truth on this survey.	2%	1%	34%	63%

B. ADULT RESPECT FOR STUDENTS

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
16. Teachers and other adults at this school care about me.	5%	14%	62%	19%
17. Teachers and other adults at this school want me to succeed.	3%	8%	60%	29%
18. Teachers and other adults at this school listen to what I have to say.	7%	20%	57%	16%
19. Teachers and other adults at this school treat me with respect.	5%	13%	61%	21%

C. STUDENT WILLINGNESS TO SEEK HELP

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
20. There are teachers or other adults at this school I could talk with if I needed help with something.	6%	13%	57%	25%
21. I am comfortable asking teachers or other adults at this school for help with my schoolwork.	6%	15%	56%	22%
22. I am comfortable asking teachers or other adults at this school for help to solve a problem I am having with another student.	12%	28%	45%	14%
23. Teachers and other adults at this school will help me if I have a problem.	5%	13%	62%	21%

D. SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
24. I stop and think before doing anything when I get angry.	6%	18%	54%	22%
25. I work out disagreements with other students by talking with them.	6%	19%	59%	16%
26. I can disagree with others without starting an argument or a fight.	5%	12%	57%	26%
27. I know how to decide right from wrong.	2%	3%	54%	41%
28. I can control myself when I am upset.	5%	11%	56%	28%

E. CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
29. All students have access to the same learning opportunities, regardless of whether they are rich or poor.	6%	13%	51%	31%
30. All students have access to the same learning opportunities, regardless of their gender.	4%	6%	53%	37%
31. All students have access to the same learning opportunities, regardless of their race or ethnicity.	4%	8%	52%	35%
32. The things I learn at this school reflect multiple cultural backgrounds, ethnicities, and identities.	7%	18%	55%	20%
33. Everyone at this school shows respect for the cultural beliefs, languages, and practices of others.	15%	28%	42%	15%

3. EXPECTATIONS

A. ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
34. Teachers and other adults at this school expect me to succeed.	3%	6%	61%	29%
35. Teachers and other adults at this school provide me the support I need to succeed.	5%	15%	62%	18%
36. Teachers and other adults at this school challenge me academically.	4%	12%	60%	24%
37. Teachers and other adults at this school expect me to continue to learn new things after high school.	3%	8%	61%	28%

B. INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
38. Teachers and other adults at this school expect me to use facts and evidence to support my ideas.	3%	7%	65%	26%
39. Teachers and other adults at this school want me to think about different ways to solve problems.	5%	14%	62%	19%
40. Teachers and other adults at this school encourage me to provide helpful feedback to others.	6%	21%	59%	15%
41. Teachers and other adults at this school encourage me to share my ideas about what I am studying in class.	7%	25%	54%	14%
42. Teachers and other adults at this school often connect what I am learning to life outside the classroom.	11%	28%	48%	13%

C. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE STRUCTURE

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
43. I know which behaviors my school views as inappropriate.	3%	8%	57%	31%
44. I know the consequences if I break a school rule.	3%	8%	56%	33%
45. The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for all students.	16%	24%	40%	20%
46. When students are accused of doing something wrong, they get a chance to explain.	16%	28%	45%	11%
47. I am recognized for my positive behavior.	11%	25%	46%	18%

4. SAFETY

A. CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Mark one response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
48. I feel safe at this school.	9%	18%	56%	17%
49. I feel safe traveling between my home and this school.	5%	8%	58%	30%
50. If another student talked about causing harm to someone, I would tell a teacher or another adult at school.	5%	15%	46%	34%
51. If another student brought a weapon to school, I would tell a teacher or another adult at school.	4%	8%	38%	49%

B. PREVALENCE OF BULLYING

What is bullying? Bullying is when someone is being hurt either by words or actions on purpose. The person being hurt feels the bully has more power because the person being hurt thinks the bully is more popular, stronger, bigger, smarter, or cooler. Bullying makes the person being bullied feel intimidated or humiliated. Bullying happens more than once. The person being bullied has a hard time stopping it. Bullying includes cyber bullying. Bullying does not include teasing or horseplay. It is not bullying when two students who have the same power have a fight or an argument.

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
52. Bullying is a problem at this school.	11%	43%	31%	15%
53. Students at this school are bullied about their race or ethnicity.	18%	47%	24%	11%
54. Students at this school are bullied about their clothing or physical appearance.	11%	33%	38%	18%
55. Students at this school are bullied about their sexual orientation.	15%	39%	30%	16%
56. Students at this school are bullied about their disability.	23%	41%	23%	13%

C. BULLYING VICTIMIZATION

How often have the following occurred? Mark one response per line.

	Never	Once or Twice	About Once per Week	More than Once per Week
57. I have been bullied by students at school this year (since school started last fall).	74%	19%	4%	4%
58. I have been bullied by a teacher or another adult at school this year (since school started last fall).	84%	11%	3%	3%
59. I have bullied others at school this year.	88%	9%	2%	2%
<i>Physical bullying involves repeatedly hitting, kicking, or shoving someone weaker on purpose.</i>				
60. I have been physically bullied or threatened with physical bullying at school this year.	89%	7%	2%	2%
<i>Verbal bullying involves repeatedly putting down or insulting someone on purpose.</i>				
61. I have been verbally bullied at school this year.	70%	20%	5%	4%
<i>Social bullying involves getting others repeatedly to ignore or leave someone out on purpose.</i>				
62. I have been socially bullied at school this year.	78%	14%	4%	4%
<i>Cyber bullying involves using technology (cell phone, email, Internet, etc.) to insult or put down someone.</i>				
63. I have been cyberbullied this year.	86%	9%	3%	3%

[If answered positively to any question above (Q57-Q63)] **You have just answered some questions about being bullied in some way.**

	Yes	No
64. Did you tell a teacher or another adult at school what happened?	73%	27%

D. VICTIM EXPERIENCES

Have any of the following happened to you personally at school this year? This includes school events like field trips, school dances, and sports events. Mark one response per line.

	No	One Time	More than Once	Many Times
65. A student stole or damaged my personal property.	81%	12%	4%	3%
66. A student physically attacked, pushed, or hit me.	87%	7%	3%	2%
67. A student threatened to harm me.	84%	8%	5%	3%
68. A student said mean or insulting things to me.	58%	19%	14%	9%

5. DEMOGRAPHICS

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

49% Male

51% Female

70. What is the best description of your race? *If you are more than one race, mark all that apply.*

5% American Indian or Alaska Native

9% Asian

24% Black or African American

5% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

63% White

17% Other Race

71. Are you Hispanic or Latino? *Mark one.*

17% Yes

83% No

72. Do you have an Individual Education Program (IEP)? *Mark one.*

8% Yes

54% No

38% Don't know

73. Do you have a Section 504 plan? *Mark one.*

5% Yes

39% No

56% Don't know

74. How many parents live with you? Include biological, step, adoptive, and foster parents. *Mark one.*

3% None

22% One

70% Two

5% More than two

75. How far did your mother go in school? *Mark one.*

9% Did not graduate from high school

26% Graduated from high school

12% Graduated from a two-year college or technical school

24% Graduated from a four-year college

17% Completed post-graduate studies (such as a master's degree or doctoral degree) after graduating from a four-year college

12% Don't know

76. Does your family speak a language other than English at home? *Mark one.*
- 27% Yes
 - 73% No
77. Do you receive a free or reduced-price meal at school? *Mark one.*
- 33% Yes
 - 67% No
78. How many questions on this survey did you answer truthfully? *Mark one.*
- 76% All of them
 - 9% All but 1 or 2 of them
 - 11% Most of them
 - 3% Some of them
 - 2% Only a few or none of them
79. How many days have you been suspended out of school this year? *Mark one.*
- 93% I have not been suspended from school this year.
 - 2% I have been suspended for one day.
 - 1% I have been suspended for two days.
 - 1% I have been suspended for three days.
 - 1% I have been suspended for four days.
 - 3% I have been suspended five or more days.
80. What are your plans after high school? *Mark one.*
- 8% I do not have plans after high school.
 - 11% I expect to attend a two-year college.
 - 62% I expect to attend a four-year college.
 - 9% I expect to attend a business or technical school, pursue an apprenticeship, or other educational opportunity.
 - 3% I expect to enter into the military.
 - 4% I expect to enter into the workforce.