



**SCHOOL CLIMATE &
CONNECTEDNESS SURVEY**
ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS

NWABSD 2025 SCCS



Tuesday October 28, 2025

Your AASB SCCS Support Team



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Meeting Objectives

What is School Climate and Why Measure it

Survey Updates in 2025

Data Highlights

Data Walk

Making Meaning from Data: Tips



School Climate and Connectedness



What is School Climate?

School climate is a broad, multifaceted concept that involves many aspects of the student's educational experience.

A positive school climate is the product of a school's attention to fostering safety; promoting a supportive academic, disciplinary, and physical environment; and encouraging and maintaining respectful, trusting, and caring relationships throughout the school community no matter the setting—from Pre-K/Elementary School to higher education.

-National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments



What is School Connectedness?

School connectedness is a feeling that students, staff, and parents belong, are cared for, and are accepted by others in the school environment [CDC, APA].

It is about relationships



Why Does it Matter?

A positive school climate and high connectedness have a profound impact:



Data helps boards...

- Incorporate stakeholder input
- Understand progress toward your stated goals and vision
- Make informed decisions based on objective measures aligned with core values

What do you as board members want to know from?

- From Students?
- From Staff?
- From Families?

School Climate & Connectedness Survey

History and Overview

AASB developed the survey partnership with American Institutes for Research (AIR) & AK school districts.

- **Survey Package:** Student (3-5 & 6-12), Staff & Family Survey
- **Results:** Online interactive survey platform (Panorama Education)
- **Support:** Technical assistance before, during, and after survey administration
- **Continuous Quality Improvement:** Gather feedback from districts/schools and look at current research from the field.

Student Grade 3–5 Survey Topics



Grade 3-5
Caring for Others
School Safety
Social and Emotional Learning

Student Grade 6–12 Survey Topics



Grades 6-12	
School Safety and Peer Climate	High Expectations
Connectedness/Belonging	Caring Adults
Student Involvement	Respectful Climate
Social and Emotional Learning	Cultural Connectedness
Family and Community Involvement	

Staff Survey Topics



Staff	
Staff to Student Relationships	District Leadership
Staff to Staff Relationships	Cultural Connectedness
Student Involvement	Trauma Engaged Schools
School Capacity - Family/School Partnership	Staff Capacity - Family/School Partnership
School Leadership and Involvement	

Family Survey Topics



Family
Cultural Connectedness
School Safety
Student Support at Home
School/Family Partnership



Survey Updates 2025

Why?

Responding to feedback — We received feedback from districts, school staff, students, and families that the surveys were too long. To shorten the survey, we worked with districts to identify and prioritize the key topics that schools were most concerned about and those that are most linked to student outcomes like attendance, academic success, and engagement.

Survey Validity — We worked with American Institutes for Research (AIR) to analyze how survey items were performing and made changes to make the survey tool more aligned with best practices.

The School Climate & Connectedness Survey underwent significant revisions in 2025!

What are the Key Changes?



Updated Scales for Clearer Insights: We have moved from a five-point scale to a four-point scale, removing the neutral option. This change allows for a more accurate picture of school climate by clearly identifying favorable and unfavorable responses.

Reduced Overlap: We've removed the two student risk behavior scales (drugs and alcohol, delinquent behaviors) from the 6th-12th grade and staff surveys, as tools like YRBS and other data sources schools have access to already cover this.





Shortened Survey: We've shortened surveys across all groups, prioritizing the most actionable and relevant content. The family survey, for example, is now nearly half as long—making it easier for more families to participate.

Streamlined and Combined: Some survey topics have been combined based on the analysis with AIR. For example, Peer Climate is now included within School Safety, and Community Support is part of Community Involvement.



Grade 3–5 Safety Scale



Improved Safety Scale: The student 3-5 survey safety scale now includes additional questions on students' feelings of safety as they move throughout the school.

- I feel safe at school
- I feel safe in the hallways and bathrooms of the school
- I feel safe in my classroom
- I feel safe at recess
- Most students at this school get along with each other
- Students at my school are often teased, picked on, made fun of, or called names



What's the Impact?

Survey results for 2025 cannot be directly compared to past years' data. Trend data and comparisons have been removed from Panorama when viewing 2025 surveys. However, past data remains accessible, and districts can still use it to inform ongoing efforts.

More information about how to use your 2025 results can be found [here](#).

The following topics still show some comparisons to 2024 (but use with caution!)

- SEL - Question Level
- Staff Trauma-Engaged Schools - Question Level (some)

How are results scored?



QUESTION



There is at least one adult at this school whom I feel comfortable talking to about things that are bothering me.

78 % 

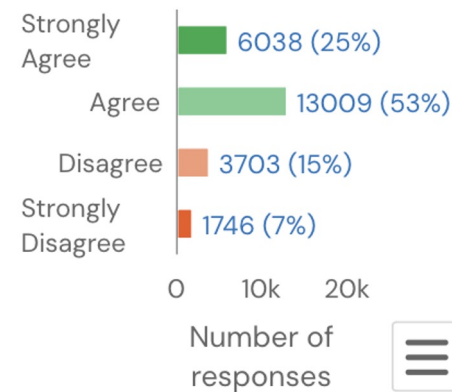
responded
favorably



Results are scored in “Percent Favorable”

When a question is scored as "78% favorable," this means that 78% of respondents selected a **favorable answer choice**.

Answer distribution



What does the scoring mean on “negatively” scored items?



QUESTION



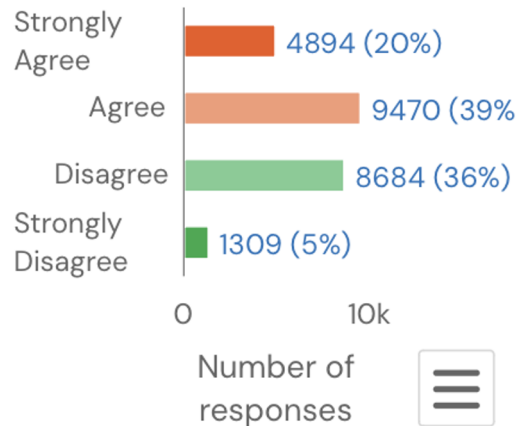
Students at this school are often teased or picked on.

41% 

responded
favorably



Answer distribution



A "high" score = students feel more favorable about a specific topic

A "low" score = they don't feel as positively about it



2024 Family Survey

What feedback did family members have for their school?

Survey Context

To protect the confidentiality of individuals, a minimum of 6 responses must be received to create an aggregate report. If there are fewer than 6 responses in a school, the school's data is not displayed in these reports (but included in district and statewide figures).

[Show More](#)

2024 Family Survey

280 responses | [show breakdown](#)

Save as PDF

Topic	Percent Favorable ⓘ	Compared to ⓘ Participating Alaska Districts	Change since 2023 School Climate & Connectedness Survey ⓘ	
Student Support at Home ⓘ	82% <div><div></div></div>	-3	▲ 3	>
Family/school partnership - family capacity	78% <div><div></div></div>	+3	▲ 1	>
School Safety ⓘ	78% <div><div></div></div>	-6	▲ 1	>
Cultural Connectedness ⓘ	73% <div><div></div></div>	-2	▲ 2	>
Family/school partnership - school capacity	72% <div><div></div></div>	+2	▲ 4 Greatest increase	>



2025 Family Survey

What feedback did family members have for their school?

Survey Context

To protect the confidentiality of individuals, a minimum of 6 responses must be received to create an aggregate report. If there are fewer than 6 responses in a school, the school's data is not displayed in these reports (but included in district and statewide figures).

[Show More](#)

Family Survey

199 responses | [show breakdown](#)

Save as PDF

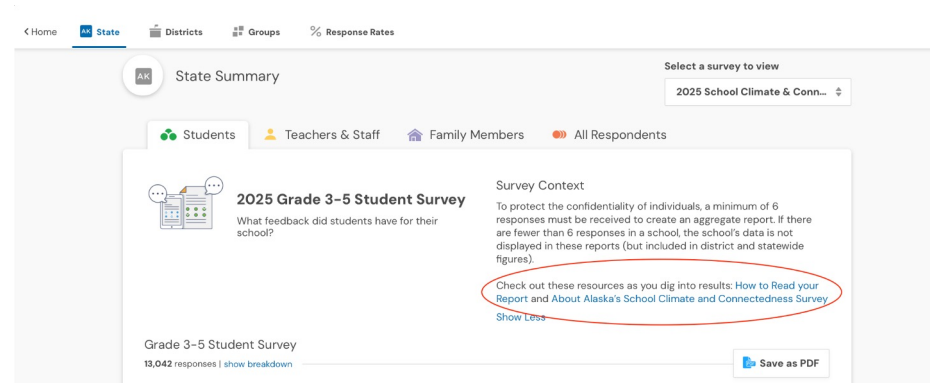
Topic	Percent Favorable ⓘ	Compared to ⓘ Participating Alaska Districts	
School Safety Question	91% <div><div></div></div>		>
Student Support at Home ⓘ	90% <div><div></div></div>		>
Cultural Connectedness ⓘ	84% <div><div></div></div>	-7	>
School/family partnership	78% <div><div></div></div>	-4	>



Why doesn't my school have results?

To protect the confidentiality of individuals, a **minimum of 6 responses** must be received to create an aggregate report.

If there are fewer than 6 responses in a school, the school's data is not displayed in these reports (but included in district and statewide figures).



[See guides in the reports](#) for more explanation about how responses are counted for SCCS.



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NWABSD Data Highlights



2025 SCCS



NWABSD Participation

2025 Response Rates

- Students
 - Grade 3-5 **68.9%** - 281/408
 - Grade 6-12 **66.9%** - 648/968
- Staff **71.4%** - 167/234
- Family **20.4%** - 199/975

Insight #1: Students in 3rd grade had more favorable views of school climate across all topics.



2025 School Climate &
Connectedness Survey 2025
Grade 3–5 Student Survey

Group Name

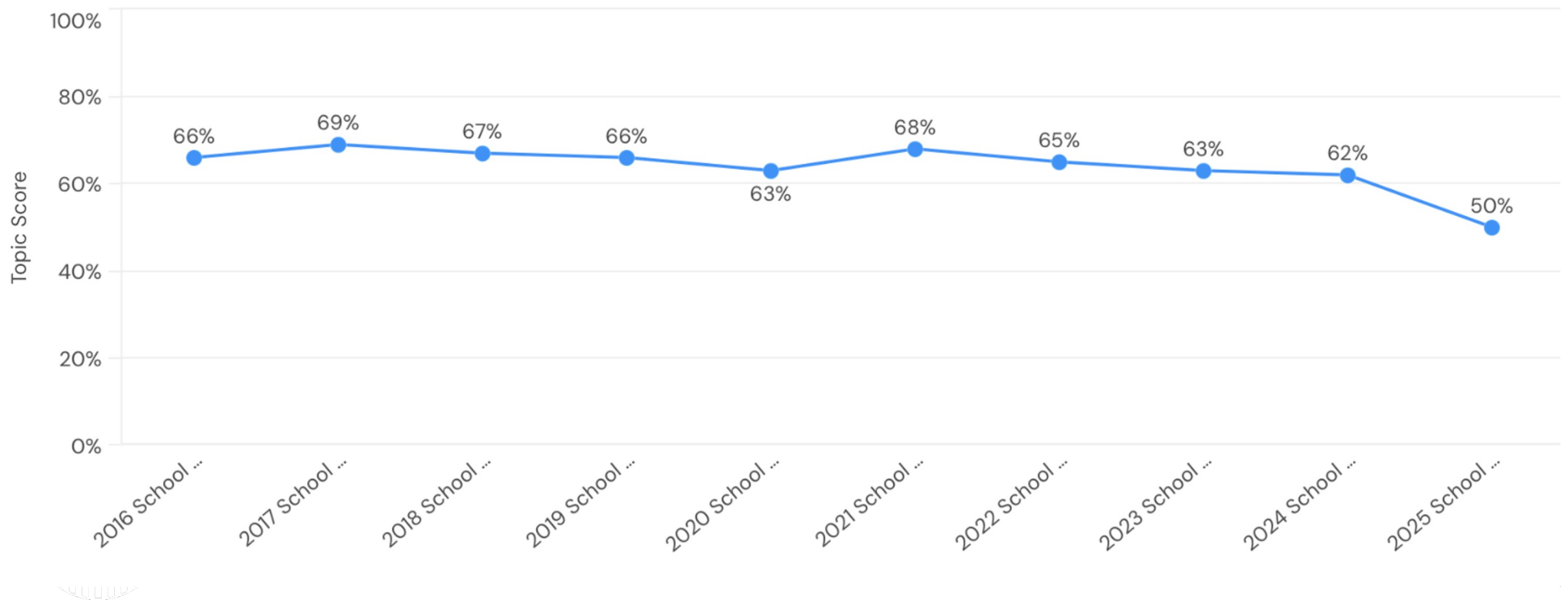
Group Size

Caring for Others (Grades
3–5)
School Safety (Grades
3–5)
Social and Emotional
Learning (Grades 3–5)

All respondents		281	85%	75%	50%
What grade are you in?					
3	82	+5	+8	+4	
4	68	+2	-3	0	
5	127	-4	-4	-3	



Insight #2: SEL for grades 3-5 has been trending down



Insight #3: Students in grade 10–12 had more favorable views of safety and respectful climate while students in grades 7–9 had less favorable views.



2025 School Climate &
Connectedness Survey 2025
Grade 6–12 Student Survey

Group Name

Group Size

Caring Adults
Connectedness/Belonging
Cultural Connectedness
Family and Community
Involvement
High Expectations
Respectful Climate
School Safety and Peer
Climate
Social and Emotional
Learning (Grades 6–12)
Student Involvement

All respondents		648	79%	70%	82%	88%	86%	77%	59%	77%	78%
What grade are you in?											
6	134	+1	+8	+4	+1	+2	+6	-1	+1	+6	
7	117	+1	+1	-1	+1	+3	-4	-7	-3	0	
8	108	0	+2	+2	-1	-3	-2	0	+4	+3	
9	102	-2	-10	0	0	+1	-4	-2	-4	-4	
10	82	+2	-5	-4	-4	-2	0	+6	+1	-1	
11	59	0	+2	0	+1	0	+6	+5	+4	-3	
12	43	+3	+3	-3	-4	-1	+4	+7	-2	-7	



Insight #4: Staff have favorable views of district leadership.



Topic

Percent Favorable?

Compared to?

Participating Alaska Districts

District Leadership

81%



+14

QUESTION



District leadership supports efforts to improve school climate.

81% *i*

responded
favorably



QUESTION



District leadership is open/available to feedback and input from staff at my school.

80% *i*

responded
favorably



Accessing Your SCCS Results



NWABSD Public Link

Results

Browse survey results for:



Participating Alaska
Districts



Northwest Arctic
Borough School District



12 Schools

Ambler School

Aqqaluk High/Noorvik
Elementary

Buckland School

Davis-Ramoth School

Deering School

June Nelson Elementary
School

Kiana School

Kobuk School

Kotzebue Middle/High School

McQueen School

Napaaqtugmiut School

Shungnak School



AFEC



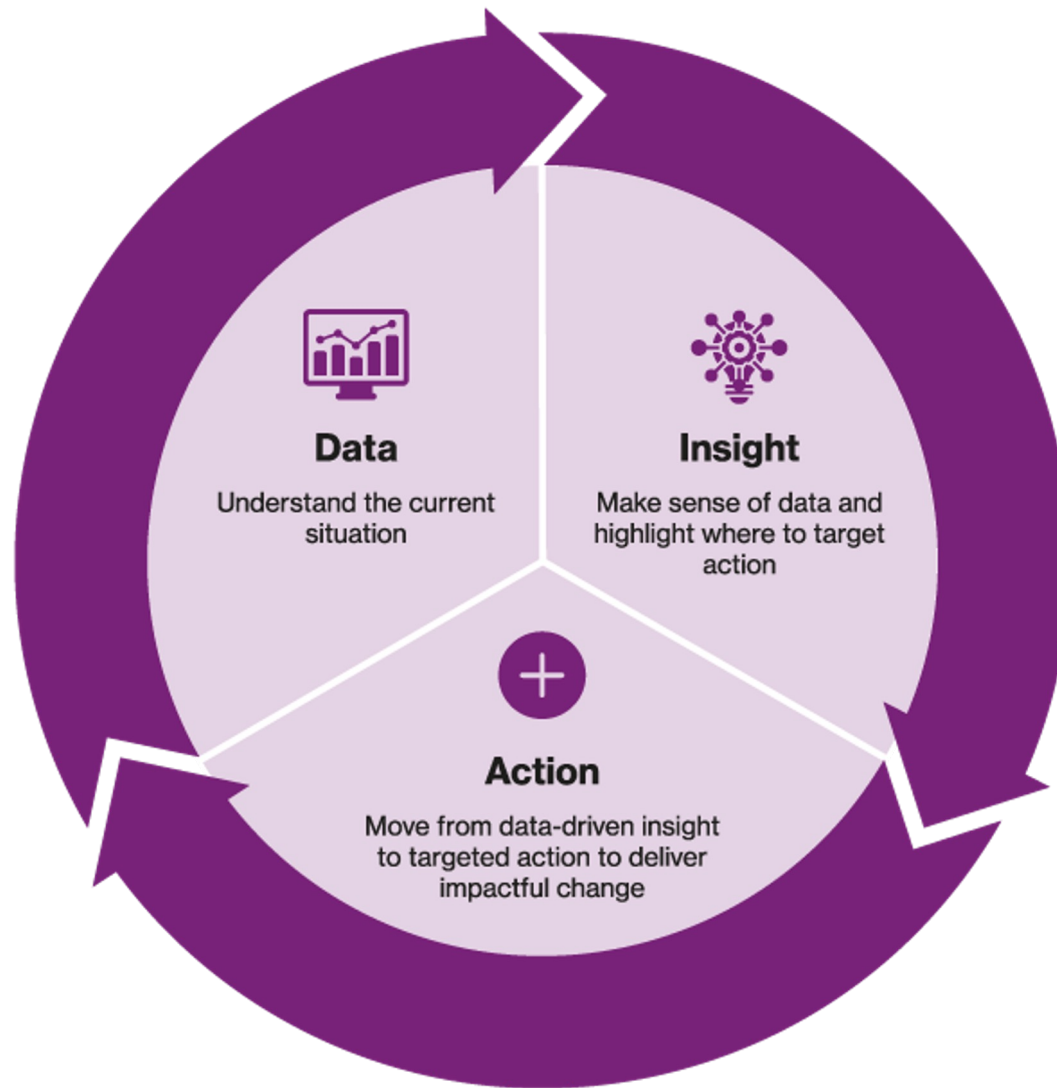
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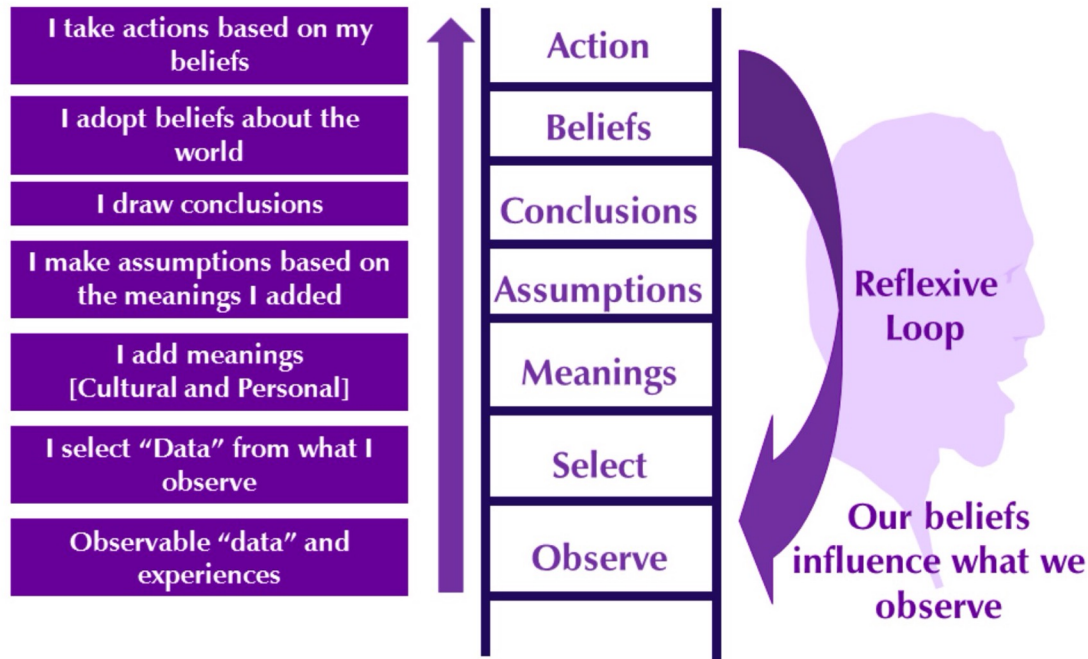
Making Meaning From Your Data





Staying Low on The Ladder of Inference

The Ladder of Inference



Key language shifts:

- I notice...
- I wonder...

Data Walk –

- Purpose of Data Walk is to practice using the Data to Action process
- NWABSD District Data
- 3 stations, at each station:
 - WHAT - what do you observe looking at the data - write down the obvious!
 - WONDER - what questions does the data prompt for you?
- Stay low on the ladder of inference!
- We'll come back together to discuss as a group

Share out – Staff Survey – school/staff capacity



NOTICE:

Notes

WONDER:

Notes

Share out – Family Survey – school/staff capacity



NOTICE:

Notes

WONDER:

Notes

Share out – School Safety (3–5)



NOTICE:

Notes

WONDER:

Notes

Share out – School Safety & Peer Climate (6–12)



NOTICE:

Notes

WONDER:

Notes



Next Steps

Guiding Questions to consider:

- What will help us to be most effective?
- What activities or resources can we use?
- Who are the champions or leads for this work?
- How will we communicate the importance of this work?
- What can we begin working on right away?

Action steps might include:

- Gathering more information to answer your wonderings
- Bringing in staff, students, or family members to help inform your next steps
- Researching best practices for improving school climate or addressing specific topics within school climate
- Testing strategies with a small group of students or staff to see how they might be implemented schoolwide
- Hosting a community conversation, sharing out information in media, presenting at a staff or board meeting, or posting information to your school website to communicate your findings and next steps
- Coming back together as a team to review results and plan next steps



QUESTIONS?

Contact the SCCS Team
sccs@aasb.org