

The logo for Geneva Community Unit School District 304 is circular. It features the word "GENEVA" in an arc at the top and "A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE" in an arc at the bottom. In the center, there is a depiction of a school building with a flag on top.

GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 304

TO: Geneva Board of Education

CC: Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent

FROM: Craig Collins/Patty O'Neil

RE: Illinois 5Essentials Survey

DATE: February 25, 2013

Teachers, parents, and students have the opportunity to participate in the Illinois 5Essentials Survey: Organizing Schools for Improvement. This opportunity is intended to allow participants to share their opinions on important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about our schools. This survey was designed to generate a rich picture of the inner workings of our schools from an organizational perspective. The State has established the survey window as February 1st through March 31st.

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, UChicago Impact at the University of Chicago will administer the Illinois 5Essentials Survey to participant groups online. This survey was developed at the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research and derived from the Five Essentials for School Success, an evidence-based framework that identifies five factors that can lead to important student outcomes, including improved attendance and larger test score gains.

Research has shown that schools strong on the 5Essentials are 10 times more likely to improve student learning. Those 5Essentials are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environment
- Ambitious Instruction

School-level reports will be generated if at least 50 percent of teachers respond to the survey, but that is the absolute minimum. We know we can count on our teachers for a much higher participation rate. Students in grades 6-12 will be participating in a different survey and, similarly, a 50 percent response rate is required for those results to be included in the overall school report. Parent participation is encouraged, but not required, in this first administration. Teachers have already been invited to participate, and the parent invitations are going out this week. Students are being scheduled at the middle and high schools during early March.

After the survey window closes, the data will be compiled and individual school and district reports will be generated. The school reports will be sent to schools and districts in June and will be included in each school report card, released by ISBE at the end of October. The 5Essentials Reports will also be publicly available via the UChicago Impact website. 5Essentials Reports will display summary information, such as the percent of teachers who find their schools' professional development initiatives helpful. The identities of individual respondents will be kept completely confidential, and responses will not be linked to individual students, teachers, or parents.

Survey administration has begun in District and across the State and will continue until March 31st. As this survey will provide important information, we are encouraging a very high level of participation.

For more information about the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, or to view sample school reports, please visit <https://illinois.5-essentials.org>. There you will find webinars, pre-recorded PowerPoint presentations sharing additional information about the 5Essentials Survey, as well as links to sample school reports.

Please contact us if you have questions or need additional information.