

Illinois
5Essentials survey

Organizing Schools for Improvement

2012-13 Survey Questions

Illinois **5**Essentials Survey

Organizing Schools for Improvement

Table of Contents

Illinois 5Essentials Survey	
Teacher Survey	3
Student Survey	15
Parent Survey	22

Illinois 5Essentials Survey Teacher Questions

Illinois 5Essentials Survey – Teacher

1. What is your current teaching position? (Please check all that apply)		
# - Item Text	Yes	No
1 - Self-contained elementary classroom teacher		
2 - Subject-specific classroom teacher		
3 - Assistant Principal		
4 - Student teacher		
5 - Substitute teacher		
6 - Tutor		
7 - Instructional coach		
8 - Teacher aides		
9 - CCT (cooperating classroom teacher)		
10 - Special education teacher		
11 - Other (counselor, librarian, specialist, etc.)		

2. What grades do you primarily teach? (Choose One)			
# - Item Text	Pre-Kindergarten - 5th	6th - 8th	9th - 12th
1 - What grades do you primarily teach?			

3. What subjects do you teach this year? (Select all that apply)		
# - Item Text	Yes	No
1 - English language arts (English, reading, writing)		
2 - Mathematics		
3 - Science		
4 - Social studies, history, government		
5 - World language		
6 - Special education		
7 - Art, music, drama		
8 - Computer science, technology		
9 - Physical education		
10 - Vocational, business		

4. Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:

# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Teachers talk about instruction in the teachers' lounge, faculty meetings, etc.				
2 - Teachers in this school share and discuss student work with other teachers.				
3 - Experienced teachers invite new teachers into their rooms to observe, give feedback, etc.				
4 - A conscious effort is made by faculty to make new teachers feel welcome here.				

5. This school year, how often have you had conversations with colleagues about:

# - Item Text	Less than once a month	2 or 3 times per month	1 or 2 times per week	Almost daily
1 - What helps students learn the best.				
2 - Development of new curriculum.				
3 - The goals of this school.				
4 - Managing classroom behavior.				

6. This school year, how often have you:

# - Item Text	Never	Once or twice	3-9 times	10 or more times
1 - Observed another teacher's classroom to offer feedback.				
2 - Observed another teacher's classroom to get ideas for your own instruction.				
3 - Gone over student assessment data with other teachers to make instructional decisions.				
4 - Worked with other teachers to develop materials or activities for particular classes.				
5 - Worked on instructional strategies with other teachers.				

7. How frequently do you review assessment data (e.g. department-wide common assessments, standardized tests)?

# - Item Text	Never	A few times a year	Every 6-8 weeks	Every 3-4 weeks	Weekly
1 - Independently.					
2 - With teachers in your grade level.					
3 - With teachers across grades.					
4 - With your principal.					

8. How many teachers in this school:

# - Item Text	None	Some	About half	Most	Nearly all
1 - Help maintain discipline in the entire school, not just their classroom.					
2 - Take responsibility for improving the school.					
3 - Feel responsible to help each other do their best.					
4 - Feel responsible that all students learn.					
5 - Feel responsible for helping students develop self-control.					
6 - Feel responsible when students in this school fail.					
7 - Feel good about parents' support for their work.					

9. For the students you teach this year, how many of their parents:

# - Item Text	None	Some	About half	Most	All
1 - Support your teaching efforts.					
2 - Do their best to help their children learn.					

10. To what extent do you feel respected by the parents of your students?

# - Item Text	Not at all	A little	Some	To a great extent
1 - To what extent do you feel respected by the parents of your students?				

11. Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:				
# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Teachers and parents think of each other as partners in educating children.				
2 - Staff at this school work hard to build trusting relationships with parents.				

12. To what extent is each of the following a problem at your school?				
# - Item Text	Not at all	A little	Some	To a great extent
1 - Physical conflicts among students				
2 - Robbery or theft				
3 - Gang activity				
4 - Disorder in classrooms				
5 - Disorder in hallways				
6 - Student disrespect of teachers				
7 - Threats of violence toward teachers				

13. To what extent do you feel respected by your principal?				
# - Item Text	Not at all	A little	Some	To a great extent
1 - To what extent do you feel respected by your principal?				

14. Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:				
# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - The principal has confidence in the expertise of the teachers.				
2 - I trust the principal at his or her word.				
3 - It's OK in this school to discuss feelings, worries, and frustrations with the principal.				
4 - The principal takes a personal interest in the professional development of teachers.				
5 - The principal looks out for the personal welfare of the faculty members.				
6 - The principal places the needs of children ahead of personal and political interests.				

7 - The principal at this school is an effective manager who makes the school run smoothly.			
---	--	--	--

15. To what extent do you feel respected by other teachers?			
# - Item Text	Not at all	A little	To a great extent
1 - To what extent do you feel respected by other teachers?			

16. Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:			
# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Strongly agree
1 - Teachers in this school trust each other.			
2 - It's OK in this school to discuss feelings, worries, and frustrations with other teachers.			
3 - Teachers respect other teachers who take the lead in school improvement efforts.			
4 - Teachers at this school respect those colleagues who are experts at their craft			

17. What subject area is your TARGET CLASS?												
# - Item Text	Art, music, drama	Computer science, tech	English, reading	ESL	Math	Physical Ed	Science	Social Studies, History, Govt	Special Ed	Vocational business	World Language	Other
1 - What subject area is your TARGET CLASS?												

18. Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:		
# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Strongly agree
1 - I usually look forward to each working day at this school.		
2 - I wouldn't want to work in any other school.		
3 - I feel loyal to this school.		
4 - I would recommend this school to parents seeking a place for their child.		

19. For the students you teach this year, how many of the parents:

# - Item Text	None	Some	About half	Most	All
1 - Attended parent-teacher conferences when you requested them.					
2 - Volunteered to help in the classroom.					
3 - Picked up their child's last report card.					

20. To what extent do the following characteristics describe discussions that occur in your TARGET CLASS:

# - Item Text	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Almost always
1 - Students build on each other's ideas during discussion.				
2 - Students use data and text references to support their ideas.				
3 - Students show each other respect.				
4 - Students provide constructive feedback to their peers/teachers.				
5 - Most students participate in the discussion at some point.				
6 - Students draw on relevant knowledge learned outside of class.				
7 - Students get off the subject being discussed in class.				
8 - A few students dominate the conversation.				
9 - Students generate topics for class discussion.				

21. Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following statements about your school:

# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Parents are invited to visit classrooms to observe the instructional program.				
2 - The principal pushes teachers to communicate regularly with parents.				
3 - We encourage feedback from parents and the community.				
4 - Teachers really try to understand parents' problems and concerns.				
5 - Parents are greeted warmly when they call or visit the school.				

6 - Teachers work closely with parents to meet students' needs.				
7 - We work at communicating to parents about support needed to advance the school mission.				
8 - This school regularly communicates with parents about how they can help their children learn.				

22. Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following: The principal at this school:

# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Makes clear to the staff his or her expectations for meeting instructional goals.				
2 - Communicates a clear vision for our school.				
3 - Understands how children learn.				
4 - Sets high standards for student learning.				
5 - Presses teachers to implement what they have learned in professional development.				
6 - Carefully tracks student academic progress.				
7 - Knows what's going on in my classroom.				
8 - Participates in instructional planning with teams of teachers.				

23. How much influence do teachers have over school policy in each of the areas below?

# - Item Text	Not at all	A little	Some	To a great extent
1 - Hiring new professional personnel.				
2 - Planning how discretionary school funds should be used.				
3 - Determining books and other instructional materials used in classrooms.				
4 - Establishing the curriculum and instructional program.				
5 - Determining the content of in-service programs.				
6 - Setting standards for student behavior.				

24. To what extent do you disagree or agree with the following

# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Once we start a new program, we follow up to make sure that it's working.				
2 - We have so many different programs in this school that I can't keep track of them all.				
3 - Many special programs come and go at this school.				
4 - Curriculum, instruction, and learning materials are well coordinated across the different grade levels at this school.				
5 - There is consistency in curriculum, instruction, and learning materials among teachers in the same grade level at this school.				

25. Overall, my professional development experiences this year have:

# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Been sustained and coherently focused, rather than short-term and unrelated.				
2 - Included enough time to think carefully about, try, and evaluate new ideas.				
3 - Been closely connected to my school's improvement plan.				
4 - Included opportunities to work productively with colleagues in my school.				
5 - Included opportunities to work productively with teachers from other schools.				

26. Please mark the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following:

# - Item Text	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Teachers expect most students in this school to go to college.				
2 - Teachers at this school help students plan for college outside of class time.				
3 - The curriculum at this school is focused on helping students get ready for college.				
4 - Most of the students in this school are planning to go to college.				
5 - Teachers in this school feel that it is a part of their job to prepare students to succeed in college.				

27. How many of the students in your class:					
# - Item Text	None	Some	About half	Most	Nearly all
1 - Come to class on time.					
2 - Attend class regularly.					
3 - Come to class prepared with the appropriate supplies and books.					
4 - Regularly pay attention in class.					
5 - Actively participate in class activities.					
6 - Always turn in their homework.					

28. How important are each of the following for you in judging how well students in your English/Language Arts/Reading class are learning?					
# - Item Text	Do not use	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
1 - Multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank tests					
2 - Short answer tests					
3 - Essay tests					
4 - Student work on open-ended problems					
5 - Portfolio of student work					
6 - Group projects					
7 - Individual student projects					
8 - State standardized test results					

29. As part of teaching reading, how often do you have students:							
# - Item Text	Omit	Almost everyday	Several times a week	About once a week	Less than once a week	Subject N/A	Multiple Punch
1 - Read in their basis							
2 - Talk with one another in pairs or small groups about something they have read							
3 - Write about something they read							
4 - Complete reading workbooks or skill-sheet assignment							
5 - Read books they choose themselves							
6 - Read informational (nonfiction) material							
7 - Read to one another in small groups							

8 - Read aloud to the whole class								
9 - Read to themselves silently								
10 - Read materials that are in a paragraph or longer								

30. How much emphasis do you give to each of the following?

# - Item Text	Omit	Major emphasis= 1	2	3	No emphasis= 4	Subject N/A	Multiple Punch
1 - Developing an appreciation for reading and the desire to read							
2 - Developing students' confidence in their ability to read							
3 - Learning to comprehend facts and details							
4 - Learning to identify the main idea							
5 - Learning to differentiate fact from opinion							
6 - Learning to draw inferences							

31. Please answer the following questions for this class. About how often do you use each of the following instructional strategies?

# - Item Text	Never	Once or Twice a Semester	Once or Twice a Month	Once or Twice a Week	Almost Every Day	Not Familiar with this Practice
1 - Assign projects of at least one week's duration						
2 - Have students explain						
3 - Discuss career opportunities in your field						
4 - Have students complete workbooks or textbook exercises in class						
5 - Have students brainstorm ideas for written work						
6 - Have students debate ideas						
7 - Give demonstrations						
8 - Have students memorize facts or procedures						
9 - Have students apply concepts from earlier lessons						

10 - Have students do assignments of personal interest						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

32. How important are each of the following for you in judging how well students are learning in your MATH class?

# - Item Text	Do not use	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
1 - Multiple choice tests					
2 - Short answer tests					
3 - Essay tests					
4 - Student work on open-ended problems					
5 - Portfolio of student work					
6 - Group projects					
7 - Individual student projects					
8 - Standardized test scores					

33. About how often do you use each of the following instructional strategies in MATH?

# - Item Text	Never	Once or Twice a Semester	Once or Twice a Month	Once or Twice a Week	Almost Every Day	Not Familiar with this Practice
1 - Assign projects of at least one week's duration						
2 - Have students explain their reasoning						
3 - Have students do experiments or observations						
4 - Develop technical or scientific writing skills						
5 - Relate the subject matter to students' experiences and interests						
6 - Have students work in cooperative groups						
7 - Have students complete workbooks or textbook exercises in class						
8 - Have students play math games						
9 - Work with objects like rulers, counting blocks, or geometric shapes						
10 - Have students brainstorm ideas for written work						
11 - Have students debate ideas						
12 - Have students memorize facts or procedures						

**Illinois 5Essentials Survey
Student Questions**

Illinois 5Essentials Survey - Student

1. How safe do you feel:				
# - Item	Not safe	Somewhat safe	Mostly safe	Very safe
1 - In the hallways and bathrooms of the school				
2 - Outside around the school				
3 - Traveling between home and school				
4 - In your classes				

2. How much do you agree with the following statements about students in your school? Most students in my school:				
# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Like to put others down				
2 - Help each other learn				
3 - Don't get along together very well				
4 - Treat each other with respect				

3. How much do you agree with the following:				
# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - I always study for tests				
2 - I set aside time to do my homework and study				
3 - I try to do well on my schoolwork even when it isn't interesting to me				
4 - If I need to study, I don't go out with my friends				
5 - I keep track of my long-term assignments so I know when to turn them in				
6 - I manage my time well enough to get all my work done				
7 - I can keep my schoolwork and personal life organized				

4. How much do you agree with the following:				
# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - When my teachers tell me not to do something, I know he/she has a good reason				
2 - I feel safe and comfortable with my teachers at this school				
3 - My teacher always keep his/her promises				
4 - My teachers will always listen to students' ideas				

5 - My teachers treat me with respect		
---------------------------------------	--	--

5) How much do you agree with the following statements about the community in which you live:				
# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Adults in this neighborhood know who the local children are				
2 - During the day, it is safe for children to play in the local park or playground				
3 - People in this neighborhood can be trusted				
4 - There are adults in this neighborhood that children can look up to				
5 - The equipment and buildings in the neighborhood park or playground are well kept				

For the following question, please select your "TARGET" class.

- If you were born in January, English/Language Arts is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in February, Math is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in March, Science is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in April, Social Science/Social Studies/History is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in May, English/Language Arts is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in June, Math is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in July, Science is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in August => Social Science/Social Studies/History is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in September, English/Language Arts is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in October, Math is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in November, Science is your "TARGET" class.
- If you were born in December, Social Science/Social Studies/History is your "TARGET" class.

5. What is your "TARGET" class?				
# - Item	English/Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Science/Social Studies/History
1 - What is your "TARGET" class?				

6. How many students in your primary "TARGET" class:					
# - Item	None	A few	About half	Most	All
1 - Feel it is important to come to school every day					
2 - Feel it is important to pay attention in class					
3 - Think doing homework is important					
4 - Try hard to get good grades					

7. How much do you agree with the following statements about your primary "TARGET" class:

# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - This class really makes me think				
2 - I'm really learning a lot in this class				

8. In my primary "TARGET" class, my teacher:

# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Expects everyone to work hard				
2 - Expects me to do my best all the time				
3 - Wants us to become better thinkers, not just memorize things				

9. In your primary "TARGET" class, how often:

# - Item	Never	Once in a while	Most of time	All the time
1 - Are you challenged				
2 - Do you have to work hard to do well				
3 - Does the teacher ask difficult questions on tests				
4 - Does the teacher ask difficult questions in class				

10. How much do you agree with the following statements about your primary "TARGET" class:

# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - I learn a lot from feedback on my work				
2 - It's clear to me what I need to do to get a good grade				
3 - The work we do in class is good preparation for the test				
4 - The homework assignments help me to learn the course material				
5 - I know what my teacher wants me to learn in this class				

11. How much do you agree with the following statements about your primary "TARGET" class:

# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - I usually look forward to this class				
2 - I work hard to do my best in this class				
3 - Sometimes I get so interested in my work I don't want to stop				
4 - The topics we are studying are interesting and challenging				

12. In my primary 'TARGET' class, my teacher:

# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Helps me catch up if I am behind				
2 - Is willing to give extra help on schoolwork if I need it				
3 - Notices if I have trouble learning something				
4 - Gives me specific suggestions about how I can improve my work in this class				
5 - Explains things in a different way if I don't understand something in class				

13. How much do you agree with the following: At my high school:

# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Teachers make sure that all students are planning for life after graduation				
2 - Teachers work hard to make sure that all students are learning				
3 - High school is seen as preparation for the future				
4 - All students are encouraged to go to college				
5 - Teachers pay attention to all students, not just the top students				
6 - Teachers work hard to make sure that students stay in school				

14. In your ENGLISH class this year, how often do you do the following:					
# - Item	Never	Once or twice a semester	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
1 - Debate the meaning of a reading					
2 - Discuss connections between a reading and real life people or situations					
3 - Discuss how culture, time, or place affects an author's writing					
4 - Improve a piece of writing as a class or with partners					
5 - Rewrite a paper or essay in response to comments					
6 - Explain how writers use tools like symbolism and metaphor to communicate meaning					

15. In your MATH class this year, how often do you do the following:					
# - Item	Never	Once or twice a semester	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
1 - Apply math to situations in life outside of school					
2 - Discuss possible solutions to problems with other students					
3 - Explain how you solved a problem to the class					
4 - Write a few sentences to explain how you solved a math problem					
5- Write a math problem for other students to solve					
6 - Solve a problem with multiple steps that takes more than 20 minutes					

16. In your SCIENCE class this year, how often do you do the following:					
# - Item	Never	Once or twice a semester	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
1 - Use laboratory equipment or specimens					
2 - Write lab reports					
3 - Generate your own hypotheses					
4 - Use evidence/data to support an argument or hypothesis					
5 - Find information from graphs and tables					

17. How much do you agree with the following:

# - Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1 - Grades in high school matter for success in college				
2 - My classes give me useful preparation for what I plan to do in life				
3 - High school teaches me valuable skills				
4 - Working hard in high school matters for success in the work force				
5 -What we learn in class is necessary for success in the future				

**Illinois 5Essentials Survey
Parent Questions**

Illinois 5Essentials Survey - Parent

Introductory Items	
# - Item	
1 - Which school does your child attend?	
2 - Please select the grade level(s) for your child(ren) attending this school (mark all that apply).	
3 - How many children do you have attending this school?	
4 - What is your race/ethnicity?	
5 - What is your level of education?	
6 - Did your child apply to go to this school?	
7 - Did your child apply to go to other schools?	

Welcoming School				
# - Item	Not At All	A Little	Mostly	Completely
1 - How much do you agree with the following statements about your child's school:				
2 - The office staff greets visitors warmly				
3 - I feel welcome when I visit the school				
4 - The support staff (custodians, clerks, cafeteria staff, security) seem to care about the students				

School Outreach (Parent Influence)				
# - Item	Not At All	A Little	Mostly	Completely
1 - How much do you agree with the following statements about your child's school:				
2 - The school invites me to meetings and special schools events				
3 - I know what the important issues are in the school				
4 - I have opportunities to participate in making decisions that affect the whole school community.				

Parent- Teacher Trust

# - Item	Not At All	A Little	Mostly	Completely
1 - How much do you agree with the following statements about your child's teacher:				
2 - The teacher(s) respects me				
3 - The teacher(s) does his or her best to help my child learn				
4 - The teacher(s) always has my child's best interest in mind				
5 - I am comfortable sharing my concerns with this teacher(s)				
6 - My child can learn a lot from this teacher(s)				
7 - My child will be more successful as an adult because of this teacher(s)				

Parent as Partner

# - Item	Not At All	A Little	Mostly	Completely
1 - How much do you agree with the following statements about your child's school:				
2 - The teacher(s) lets me know what they are working on in class				
3 - The teacher(s) contacts me personally to discuss my child (strengths, weaknesses, accomplishments etc.)				
4 - The teacher(s) provides suggestions for how to support my child in school				