

The Student Voice Survey FAQs

GENERAL BACKGROUND

What is the Student Voice Survey?

The Student Voice Survey is an online survey, developed by the Kentucky Department of Education, that asks grade 3-12 students to give feedback on specific aspects of the classroom experience, organized around seven elements of teaching practice: support, transparency, understanding, discipline, engagement, nurturing and trust. These elements form the acronym STUDENT.

The survey generates information both about how students experience teaching practices and learning conditions in the classroom as well as information about how students assess their own engagement. Teachers will receive aggregate data of the compiled student responses; teachers will not know how individual students responded to the survey.

Student Voice Surveys are being used by hundreds of schools and thousands of classrooms in more than 25 states nationwide.

The effective use of student voice surveys is featured in the Gates Foundation Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) study of teaching quality. Using a sample of more than 44,500 students, the results of the MET study in December 2010 and January 2012 reinforce a growing consensus that integrating student survey results with high-quality observations and student gain-scores on achievement tests creates a much more valid and reliable teacher evaluation system compared to current standard practices.

When will the Student Voice Survey be administered?

For the 2014-15 SY, there are fall and spring Student Voice Survey windows available to gather student perception. The fall window occurs from November 3rd through November 21st. The spring window occurs from March 4th through March 23rd. Districts may elect to participate in one or both survey windows.

What type of questions will be asked on the survey?

The Student Voice Survey focuses on statements such as, “My teacher explains difficult things clearly.” Students in grades 3-12 will select one of five possible responses which range from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

The items used in the Student Voice Survey were derived from the Tripod Survey, a survey that has been developed over the past 10 years as a partnership between Cambridge Education and Dr. Ron Ferguson. The survey questions can be found within the [Kentucky S.T.U.D.E.N.T. Framework](#) document. These questions are aligned to The Charlotte Danielson *Framework for Teaching*, which has been adapted for the Kentucky Department of Education.

Will students who are within an Activity Group of a teacher receive a Student Voice Survey in Infinite Campus?

Yes – Activity Groups are treated just like regular course sections.

What teachers will participate in the 2014-2015 survey administration?

All certified teachers with sufficient numbers of grade 3-12 students will participate in the survey. **All K-2 teachers and teachers who have class size less than 10 (low “n” size) will not formally participate this year. A statewide process for gathering student perception is currently being developed for these groups. K-2 and Low “n” size teachers who desire feedback from their students during SY 2014-15 can decide the survey instrument and delivery process locally.**

Who will take the survey?

All grade 3-12 students who have parental permission are eligible to take the survey. Each district will decide the Student Voice Survey protocol for their particular district.

Who will administer the surveys?

Teachers may administer the Student Voice Survey to students in their class/section. However, surveys may be administered as the district designates.

How will the data from the Student Voice Survey be used?

The primary purpose of the survey is to provide valuable information for educators who are working to improve classroom and school learning conditions.

- Teachers will use data to inform instruction and classroom practice.
- School and district leaders will use data to determine potential areas for professional learning and teacher support.
- This year’s survey results/data will be used to inform the professional practice portion of the teacher’s evaluation unless otherwise indicated by the district in the Certified Evaluation Plan.

How will the data from the survey be used after the 2014-15 school year?

For the SY 2015-16 data will be used to inform the professional practice portion of the teacher’s evaluation. Data also can be aggregated to provide school- and district-level feedback. This data can help focus priorities, track improvement and evaluate programs.

SURVEY PREPARATION

How is it determined what classrooms will be surveyed?

Prior to the Student Voice Survey window, the superintendent or his/her designee will determine the administration dates during one or both of the survey windows. The district student voice coordinator will determine the number of classes that will participate per teacher. This decision must be implemented consistently in all schools across the district. The building/school principal or his/her designee will determine the specific schedule for administering the Student Voice Survey.

Can districts restrict which of a teacher's classes receive the SV survey using Infinite Campus?

This is not possible during SY 2014-15.

How will schools receive the survey?

The Student Voice Survey will be loaded into Infinite Campus (IC) shortly before the administration date. The surveys will be made available to districts during both of the survey administration windows, but a district may choose to participate in only one window.

How can schools determine which teachers have been assigned to participate?

The Educators with Count Report is described in the Administrator How-to and lists the educators assigned to participate in the Student Voice Survey (SVS) and the number of students who will be able to respond about that educator.

What is needed for students to have access to the survey?

Students must have a Student Portal account in IC and must know or be provided their username and password.

ADMINISTERING THE SURVEY

How many classes will take the survey?

Each district will determine the number of classes per teacher to take the survey.

How will special situations like collaborating teachers, part time teachers and others be handled?

The superintendent or the district Student Voice Survey coordinator will determine the protocol for specific situations within the district. A different class will take the survey for each teacher in a collaborative classroom. In this case, teachers will identify the class that will respond for each teacher. Students in one class would not take the survey twice for both teachers of that class period.

What about teachers who are not assigned to a specific course/section?

All teachers must be assigned to a class/section in Infinite Campus to receive Student Voice Survey results.

What information will teachers need to provide for their students to be able to take the survey?

Each teacher will need to ensure that all students have their Campus Portal **usernames** and **passwords**. If students are not regular Campus Portal users, a list of usernames and passwords will need to be provided for those students.

How is student confidentiality protected?

The teacher does not have access to individual student responses within Infinite Campus. The teacher only has access to the results of the compiled responses displayed within the Educator Development Suite (EDS) of the Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS).

How long does the survey take to complete?

Students typically are able to complete the survey in less than 20 minutes.

When will the surveys be administered?

There are two Student Voice Survey windows available for districts to use to gather student feedback. Districts can elect to participate in one or both of the survey windows. The fall window occurs from November 3rd through November 21st. The spring window occurs from March 4th through March 23rd. Participation in at least one window is required. The Student Voice Survey window for the 2014-15 school year is between the hours of 7:00am and 5:00pm local time.

Who will coordinate the survey administration at each school?

The principal and/or a building Student Voice Survey coordinator designated by the principal will coordinate the survey administration.

Will parents be notified before the survey is administered?

Prior to the survey administration, schools will send an information and opt-out letter to parents of students who have teachers participating in the survey. Parents respond to this letter only if they DO NOT want their children to participate in the survey. A completed form must be returned to the school by a designated time to opt out of participation.

What accommodations can be made for students with special needs participating in the survey?

When responding to the survey, students with special needs are to use the specific accommodations that are outlined in the IEP for participation in the state assessment.

When will teachers receive the results of the Student Voice Survey?

Teachers will be able to view the results of the Student Voice Survey within the Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS) approximately 4 weeks after the Student Voice Survey window in which they participated closes.

What devices/browsers can be used to respond to Student Voice?

IC does not certify particular hardware. The hardware specs and supported browsers are located in the Supported Platform Document. The survey feature is not available in the Campus Mobile App. See [Accessing the Campus Web Application from Mobile/Tablet Devices](#) in the document for more details.

Where can I find more information on Student Voice Surveys?

For more information, go to the [PGES Student Voice web page](#). Information on the Measures of Effective Teaching Research Project is available at www.metproject.org.

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