

A Message From The Superintendent Ms. Bethany A. Lindsay



This is a reminder to participate in the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. The Illinois 5Essentials Survey provides a comprehensive picture of a school's organizational culture in an individualized report measuring five (5) "ESSENTIALS" critical for school success:

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

Twenty (20) years of research at the University of Chicago in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of the 5Essentials were 10 times more likely to make substantial gains in improving student reading and math than schools that were weak on three or more of the Essentials. Those differences remained true even after controlling for student and school characteristics, including poverty, race, gender, and neighborhood characteristics. Strength on components within the Essentials also correlated with increased teacher retention, student attendance, college enrollment, and high school graduation. All district schools, including alternative schools that fall under the district's domain, are required to participate in a school learning conditions survey every year. The survey was deemed an important component to balanced accountability under the state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan by stakeholders, which resulted in state legislative changes requiring the survey annually.

We guarantee that survey responses will never be connected to the identity of you or your child. School reports will only present aggregated information of how parents and students responded as a whole. A parent survey report will be generated if at least 20 percent of parents respond to the survey. While the parent data will not be made public, the parent report will be made available to the school Principal and the Superintendent and will enable them to make considerations based on the responses given by parents. Your participation in the parent survey will help us understand the conditions at your child's school and guide improvement. Again, your identity and individual survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child.

Teachers and 4th through 12th graders throughout Illinois are taking the teacher and student 5Essentials Survey. School-level 5Essentials Reports will be generated if teachers and/or students meet their 50 percent response-rate thresholds. These research-based reports will be sent to schools and districts in March and will also be included in the State School Report Card, released statewide in the fall. Please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> to take the parent survey. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact 5Essentials Customer Support at 1-866-440-1874 or 5essentials@uchicago.edu.

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