

# STUDENT CLIMATE AND MINDSET SURVEY ANALYSIS

Prepared for Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

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In the following report, Hanover Research analyzes results from a school climate survey to identify elements that promote a healthy school climate, identify areas of development, and establish an index for tracking progress on these items.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a survey administered by Hanover Research (Hanover) on behalf of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD). Hanover administered the survey to students in Grades 3-12 throughout the district. The survey seeks to create an index for Grades 6-12 students measuring the district's student climate, culture, and mindset in specific topic areas by grouping batteries of related items together in a scale. These scales/topic areas are:

- Scale 1: Community and Connectedness
- Scale 2: School Climate
- Scale 3: Social-Emotional Learning
- Scale 4: Student Mindset
- Scale 5: Instructional Depth (Grades 6-12 only)

## METHODOLOGY

Within the report and data supplement, Hanover segments data by Grade 3-5 students and Grade 6-12 students. The data supplement includes additional segmentations by specific grade level and school. Hanover uses statistical tests at the 95 percent confidence level to compare results between each segmentation.

For Grades 6-12 students, Hanover uses the mean score for individual items to analyze results. Additionally, Hanover presents the percentage of positive responses ('Top 3s') for individual items alongside mean scores within figures. Sample sizes may vary between mean scores and individual responses as mean scores were only calculated for respondents who answered all items within a scale battery.

## SURVEY SAMPLE

This analysis includes responses from 3,680 students (Grade 3-5 = 1,387 and Grade 6-12 = 2,293; Figure ES.1).

**Figure ES.1: Grade Distribution**

GRADE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Grade 3	454
Grade 4	479
Grade 5	454
Grade 6	439
Grade 7	388
Grade 8	398
Grade 9	346
Grade 10	270
Grade 11	264
Grade 12	188

## SURVEY SCALES

Items in each scale use a set of Likert response options to measure students’ opinions or how often they engage in certain practices. Grade 3-5 questions use 3-point response scales while Grade 6-12 questions use a 7-point response scale (Figure ES.2 and ES.3). For Grade 6-12 students, each response option has a numeric value that Hanover uses to calculate the mean score for items.

**Figure ES.2: Grade 3-5 Survey Scales and Response Options**

AGREEMENT Scales 1, 2, and 4	CONFIDENCE Scale 3
1 = No, not at all	1 = No, I cannot do this easily.
2 = A little bit	2 = I have some confidence with this.
3 = Yes, very much	3 = Yes, I can do this easily.

**Figure ES.3: Grade 6-12 Survey Scales and Response Options<sup>1</sup>**

AGREEMENT Scales 1, 2, and 4	CONFIDENCE Scale 3	FREQUENCY Scale 5
1 = Strongly Disagree	1 = Very Unconfident	1 = Never
2 = Disagree	2 = Unconfident	2 = 1-2 Times
3 = Somewhat Disagree	3 = Somewhat Unconfident	3 = 3-4 Times
4 = Neither Disagree nor Agree	4 = Neither Confident nor Unconfident	4 = 5-6 Times
5 = Somewhat Agree	5 = Somewhat Confident	5 = 7-8 Times
6 = Agree	6 = Confident	6 = 9-10 Times
7 = Strongly Agree	7 = Very Confident	7 = More than 10 Times

<sup>1</sup> Select items in Scale 4 use an inverted scale (1 = Strongly Agree – 7 = Strongly Disagree) because they assume negative outcomes. All other survey items assume positive outcomes.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Investigate school policies that promote community and connectedness between students and staff.** Students note that principals do not frequently ask them about their own ideas. Furthermore, only half of students indicate that it is easy to talk to adults at this school about things that are bothering them (Figures 1.1 and 2.2).
- **Consider programs to foster growth mindset to improve students' confidence and ability to learn.** Only 42 to 66 percent of students *disagree* with the statements "Challenging myself won't make me any smarter" (66%), "If I am not naturally smart in a subject, I will never do well in it" (63%), "My intelligence is something that I can't change very much" (51%), and "There are some things I am not capable of learning"(42%; Figure 2.5).
- **Institute programs that help teach students how to remain calm under stress and describe their feelings.** Students reported the lowest scores on these two items for social-emotional learning with only 63 percent of students indicating that they can remain calm even when under stress and 52 percent indicating that they can clearly describe their feelings (Figure 2.4).

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Grade 6-12 students indicate that they feel connected to their community.** Over 70 percent of students state that they care about their community (86%) and think it is important to participate in community service (74%). Furthermore, 65 percent of students believe that they personally can make a difference in their community (Figure 2.2).
- **Grade 6-12 students' schools and teachers provide a welcoming and encouraging environment for students.** At least 75 percent of students agree that they care about their school (78%), that their school is a welcoming place (75%), that they feel safe at school (75%), that adults treat students with respect (75%), and that students are encouraged to do their best at school (82%). Moreover, most students indicate that teachers are fair (70%), that teachers care about students' health and well-being (79%), and at least one teacher makes them excited about the future (81%; Figures 2.2 and 2.3).
- **While most Grade 6-12 students note camaraderie with fellow students, this is a potential area for improvement.** Only 55 percent of students agree that when students see another student being picked on, they try to stop it or students in their school help each other, even if they are not friends. Furthermore, only 64 percent of students state that students at their school treat them with respect (Figures 2.2 and 2.3). Conversely, over 75 percent of students indicate that they can work in a team with other students (76%), get along with students that are different (81%), recognize and compliment others' accomplishments (82%), and respect other people's opinions, even if they are different (83%; Figure 2.4).

- **Grade 6-12 students indicate that they are goal-oriented and have a positive outlook on their future.** At least 75 percent of students agree that they can excel in their classes (75%), have a great future ahead of them (75%), have goals for the school year (79%), have goals for the future (85%), and work hard to achieve their goals (83%; Figure 2.5).

## SECTION I: GRADES 3-5

This section presents analyses related to the district results for Grades 3-5 students. It includes individual item scores in each category. Darker shades of red indicate *worse* outcomes.

### INDIVIDUAL ITEM SCORES

**Figure 1.1: Overall Community and Connectedness Items (1-3 Agreement Scale)**

ITEM	NO, NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE BIT	YES, VERY MUCH
I care about my community.	1%	11%	88%
My teachers care about my health and well-being.	2%	14%	85%
At this school, students are encouraged to do their very best.	2%	16%	82%
I care about my school.	2%	15%	83%
I think it is important to participate in community service.	2%	30%	68%
Students in this school help each other, even if they are not friends.	7%	51%	43%
I have at least one teacher who makes me excited about the future.	8%	21%	71%
I believe that I can personally make a difference in my community.	8%	44%	48%
I am actively involved in clubs, athletics, and school activities.	13%	39%	48%
It is easy to talk to adults at this school about things that are bothering me.	15%	48%	37%
It is easy to talk to adults outside of school about things that are bothering me.	17%	43%	40%
The principal frequently asks students about their ideas.	19%	54%	27%

n=1,364-1,373

**Figure 1.2: Overall School Climate (1-3 Agreement Scale)**

ITEM	NO, NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE BIT	YES, VERY MUCH
The school is a welcoming place for students and families like mine.	2%	15%	83%
Adults at my school treat students with respect.	2%	17%	81%
My teachers are fair.	3%	19%	78%
I feel safe at school.	5%	22%	73%
I have fun at school.	5%	27%	68%
Students at my school treat me with respect.	8%	48%	44%
When students break rules, they are treated and disciplined fairly.	9%	36%	55%
When students see another student being picked on, they try to stop it.	9%	43%	48%

n=1,368-1,373

**Figure 1.3: Overall Social-Emotional Learning Items (1-3 Confidence Scale)**

*How confident are you in your ability to...*

ITEM	No, I CANNOT DO THIS EASILY.	I HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE WITH THIS.	YES, I CAN DO THIS EASILY
Respect other people's opinions, even if they are different from yours.	3%	26%	71%
Recognize and compliment others' accomplishments.	4%	29%	68%
Make ethical and constructive choices.	4%	37%	59%
Get along with students that are different than you.	5%	28%	67%
Work in a team with other students.	7%	27%	66%
Think about what may happen before making a decision.	7%	45%	48%
Stand up for myself without putting other people down.	9%	31%	60%
Disagree without starting a fight or argument.	12%	37%	52%
Remain calm even when under stress.	14%	42%	44%
Clearly describe your feelings.	24%	44%	32%

n=1,354-1,373

**Figure 1.4: Overall Student Mindset Items (1-3 Agreement Scale)**

ITEM	NO, NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE BIT	YES, VERY MUCH
I meet the goals my teachers set for me.	3%	43%	54%
I can learn how to solve tough problems.	3%	33%	64%
I come to class prepared.	4%	30%	66%
I can do well on tests, even if they are tough.	5%	41%	54%
I believe I can excel in all my classes.	5%	33%	62%
I can find many ways around problems.	5%	42%	53%
My intelligence is something that I can't change very much.*	27%	37%	36%
There are some things I am not capable of learning.*	27%	47%	26%
Challenging myself won't make me any smarter.*	50%	24%	27%
If I am not naturally smart in a subject, I will never do well in it.*	54%	31%	15%

n=1,348-1,359

\*Denotes items with inverted scales. These items use percent *disagreement* instead. Answers are coded from 1 (Strongly Agree) to 7 (Strongly Disagree).



## SECTION II: GRADES 6-12

This section presents analyses related to the district results for Grades 6-12 students, including:

- Overall scale scores in Community and Connectedness, School Climate, Social-Emotional Learning, Student Mindset, and Instructional Depth.
- Individual item scores in each category.

Darker shades of blue and green indicate *better* outcomes. For Scale 4 (i.e., Overall Student Mindset) percent *disagreement* is shown and items have been recoded so that larger numbers indicate *better* outcomes.

### OVERALL SCALE SCORES

**Figure 2.1: Overall Results by Scale**

SCALE/TOPIC AREA	AVERAGE INDEX SCORE
Scale 1: Community and Connectedness	5.04
Scale 2: School Climate	4.98
Scale 3: Social-Emotional Learning	5.23
Scale 4: Student Mindset	5.31
Scale 5: Instructional Depth	3.52

n=2,136-2,227

### INDIVIDUAL ITEM SCORES

**Figure 2.2: Overall Community and Connectedness Items (1-7 Agreement Scale)**

ITEM	PERCENT AGREE	MEAN SCORE
I care about my community.	86%	5.78
At this school, students are encouraged to do their very best.	82%	5.58
I have at least one teacher who makes me excited about the future.	81%	5.59
My teachers care about my health and well-being.	79%	5.47
I care about my school.	78%	5.45
I think it is important to participate in community service.	74%	5.27
I am actively involved in clubs, athletics, and school activities.	70%	5.14
I believe that I can personally make a difference in my community.	65%	4.87
It is easy to talk to adults outside of school about things that are bothering me.	56%	4.56
Students in this school help each other, even if they are not friends.	55%	4.38
It is easy to talk to adults at this school about things that are bothering me.	50%	4.29
The principal frequently asks students about their ideas.	44%	4.12

n=2,275-2,287

**Figure 2.3: Overall School Climate Items (1-7 Agreement Scale)**

ITEM	PERCENT AGREE	MEAN SCORE
The school is a welcoming place for students and families like mine.	75%	5.33
Adults at my school treat students with respect.	75%	5.25
I feel safe at school.	75%	5.35
My teachers are fair.	70%	5.06
Students at my school treat me with respect.	64%	4.80
I have fun at school.	64%	4.83
When students break rules, they are treated and disciplined fairly.	60%	4.71
When students see another student being picked on, they try to stop it.	55%	4.50

n=2,277-2,282

**Figure 2.4: Overall Social-Emotional Learning Items (1-7 Confidence Scale)**

*How confident are you in your ability to...*

ITEM	PERCENT AGREE	MEAN SCORE
Respect other people's opinions, even if they are different from yours.	83%	5.61
Recognize and compliment others' accomplishments.	82%	5.55
Get along with students that are different than you.	81%	5.57
Make ethical and constructive choices.	78%	5.39
Work in a team with other students.	76%	5.32
Think about what may happen before making a decision.	75%	5.24
Stand up for myself without putting other people down.	74%	5.31
Disagree without starting a fight or argument.	71%	5.16
Remain calm even when under stress.	63%	4.72
Clearly describe your feelings.	52%	4.35

n=2,275-2,281

**Figure 2.5: Overall Student Mindset Items (1-7 Agreement Scale)**

ITEM	PERCENT AGREE (DISAGREE)	MEAN SCORE
I believe I will graduate from high school.†	90%	6.37
I know what is hard for me to do.	86%	5.72
I have goals for my future.	85%	5.93
I work hard to achieve my goals.	83%	5.63
I know what I am good at.	83%	5.68
I can learn how to solve tough problems.	82%	5.53
I come to class prepared.	81%	5.50
I can find many ways around problems.	79%	5.40
I have goals for this school year.	79%	5.57
I can finish tasks, even if they are tough.	79%	5.43
I have a great future ahead of me.	75%	5.52
I believe I can excel in all my classes.	75%	5.33
I meet the goals my teachers set for me.	69%	5.03
I can do well on tests, even if they are tough.	67%	4.94
Challenging myself won't make me any smarter.*	66%	5.13
If I am not naturally smart in a subject, I will never do well in it.*	63%	5.03
My intelligence is something that I can't change very much.*	51%	4.53
There are some things I am not capable of learning.*	42%	4.12

n=187-2,274

\*Denotes items with inverted scales. These items use percent *disagreement* instead. Answers are coded from 1 (Strongly Agree) to 7 (Strongly Disagree).

† Only Grade 12 students saw this survey item.

**Figure 2.6: Overall Instructional Depth Items (1-7 Frequency Scale)**

*Within the past two weeks, how many times have your teachers asked you to...*

ITEM	MEAN SCORE
...identify or define a problem?	3.93
...support facts or opinions with credible resources?	3.89
...solve a new problem without help from your peers or teachers?	3.57
...make connections between things you learned in different subjects or classes?	3.50
...develop multiple solutions to a problem?	3.48
...consider multiple sources of information before making your own opinion?	3.45
...compare different ways of solving the same problem?	3.36
...seek out sources that go against your current knowledge or opinion?	3.06

n=2,259-2,265

\*Note: Instructional Depth uses a frequency scale going from 1 (Never) to 7 (More than 10 times) rather than a negative to positive scale. Hanover excludes percentages since the scale is continuous rather than balanced (i.e., any cutoff point would be arbitrary).

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