

Dear Parent(s),

We want to share with you an important opportunity for your child(ren) to impact and improve their school culture and learning environment. Student engagement is an important predictor of student success. South Carolina is committed to understanding, through the voice of students, how we can best support their engagement and success in learning. Students in grades 3-12, will have the opportunity to share information about their educational experiences and perspectives through the statewide Student Engagement Survey between **February 3 – March 6, 2020**. This survey is not a test. There are no correct or incorrect answers.

Participating in the survey provides your student(s) an opportunity to have a voice in their education. We take student privacy seriously therefore the data collected and analyzed will be at the school level. Individual student results will not be reported. We will not identify your child(ren) and how they responded to the survey.

Summary feedback across all students will be provided to teachers and leaders in order to support professional development and continuous improvement at your school and district. Statewide student survey results will also be used by the state to report school quality as part of the state's accountability system.

The survey has 20 brief questions. We encourage you to talk with your child(ren) about the survey and let them know the importance of answering the questions honestly. The collective responses of all participating students will help schools learn what they do well and what they can do better to help all students succeed.

An accompanying Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document is provided for your information. If you have additional questions, please contact your school principal.

Please encourage your child to engage with us in this important effort. We look forward to your child(ren) participating in the 2020 Student Engagement Survey.

Frequently Asked Questions: Parents & Other Stakeholders

- ✓ **When will the survey be given to students?**
The survey administration window will be open from **February 3 through March 6, 2020**. Each district will determine the best time to administer the survey to their students during this time period.
- ✓ **What is the purpose of the student engagement survey?**
The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is determined to provide its schools and districts with better information about student learning to support their continuous improvement efforts and improve teaching and learning. The Cognia Student Engagement Survey collects direct feedback from students regarding their learning experiences; results for schools help leaders and teachers understand what students need for their success. The 2020 results will be used to calculate each school's School Quality Indicator which accounts for 10% of an elementary or middle school's overall rating and 5% of a high school's overall rating for the 2019-20 school year.
- ✓ **Which students are included in the survey administration?**
All students in grades 3-12 who were actively enrolled in a South Carolina school during the survey window should participate in the survey administration.
- ✓ **How will students access the surveys?**
The survey is administered online to students statewide. Each student will enter his/her unique login credentials to access the survey that was developed for his/her grade level. South Carolina district coordinators will provide school coordinators the unique login credentials for each rostered student.
- ✓ **How long is the survey and will students be asked demographic questions?**
There are 20 survey questions for students to answer. Students will not be asked any questions related to their gender, race or religion.
- ✓ **Will a transfer or new student have to take a survey?**
Each student will only take one student engagement survey. Because this is a statewide survey, if a student transfers from another South Carolina school where he or she already has taken the survey during the current administration window, they will not have access to take the survey again. If during the survey administration window, a student transfers from a school outside of the state, or he/she did not previously take this year's survey while at another school/district within the state, they should take the survey. If this new student does not have access to the survey, he/she should inform their teacher.
- ✓ **Who do I contact with additional questions related to South Carolina Student Engagement Survey?**
Please contact the school or district the student attends.
- ✓ **Who do I contact with inquiries about the survey system or student engagement surveys in general?**
Please contact the Cognia Help Desk: eProve@cognia.org or 888-413-3669 ext. 5720.