CREATING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE: A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH

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Initialize Clickers:

- Hold down On/Off Button until it blinks.
- Press “B” then “B” again.
- A green light will flash briefly after the second “B” is pressed.
- You should be ready to vote.
- Do not turn off the I-Clicker until the end of the presentation.
What is School Climate?

The school climate affects the entire school!

"I know the kids don't like you and they pick on you, but you have to go to school... you're the teacher!"
There is not one commonly accepted definition for school climate.

Basically, school climate refers to the quality and character of school life and reflects:

- Norms, goals and values
- Interpersonal relationships
- Teaching and learning
- Organizational Structures

What we do know about school climate is that students can’t learn if they don’t feel safe.
What is a Positive School Climate?

- A positive school climate has a supportive school environment where teachers and administrators pay attention to students’ social and emotional needs as well as their academic needs.

What is a Safe School?

I-Clicker Survey Question 1 – Do safe schools have high academic standards?

- I-Clicker Button A = NO
- I-Clicker Button B = YES
What is a Safe School?

- I-Clicker Survey Question 2 – Do safe schools have a code of silence?
  - I-Clicker Button A = NO
  - I-Clicker Button B = YES
What is a Safe School?

- I-Clicker Survey Question 3 – Are safe schools characterized by metal detectors and surveillance equipment?
  
  - I-Clicker Button A = NO
  - I-Clicker Button B = YES
What are the Characteristics of Safe Schools?

- High Academic Standards
- Clear Rules and Policies, Fairly Enforced
- Positive Relationships among Students and Staff.
- High Levels of Parent Involvement
- Effective Community-School Partnerships
- Extended Day/After School Programs
- Promoting Good Citizenship & Character

U.S. Department of Education, 2000
What are the Steps to Create a Positive School Climate?

Step 1: Establish Teams & Identify Purpose

Step 2: Assess School Strengths & Needs

Step 3: Identify Goals & Expected Outcomes

Step 4: Implement Strategies & Programs

Step 5: Monitor & Evaluate Process & Outcomes
What are the Steps to Create a Positive School Climate?

- Step 1 – Establish Teams and Identify Purpose
  - Schools/districts that have established teams can enhance their processes & schools with no teams can develop their processes.
    - Planning Team
    - Emergency Response and Crisis Management Team
    - Interagency Social Support Team/Threat Assessment Team
What are the Steps to Create a Positive School Climate?

- Step 2 – Assess School Strengths and Needs
  - Assessments should be conducted annually, if possible:
    - School Climate Surveys
    - Safety/Security/Planning Checklists
    - Threat Assessments
Step 3 - Identify Goals and Expected Outcomes

Through a strategic planning process, the Planning Team will examine existing data to identify strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats. As a result the Planning Team will be able to develop goals and expected outcomes.
Step 4 – Implement Strategies and Programs

- Strategies and violence prevention programs should be implemented to meet the needs identified during the assessment process and recognized as a goal during strategic planning.
What are the Steps to Create a Positive School Climate?

- **Step 5 – Monitor and Evaluate Process**
  - In an effort to determine whether strategies, interventions or programs are being implemented as planned and whether outcomes are being generated, it’s important to conduct:
    - Process evaluation
    - Outcome evaluation
    - REPEAT STEPS 1-5 AS NECESSARY
A Data Driven Approach

If I'd known they wanted me to use all this info— I would never have asked for it!
I-Clicker Survey Question 4 – Why is data important?
A. To understand the nature and extent of your school’s strengths and needs
B. To make the best possible decisions about prevention and intervention efforts
C. To be able to monitor progress over time
D. To become more effective and efficient in your efforts
E. All of the above
The Nature and Extent of Strengths and Needs

- Individual Protective Factors for Violence
  - Self-efficacy
  - High Academic Achievement
  - Commitment to Moral Action

- School Protective Factors for Violence
  - Bonding to School
  - Positive School Climate

- Risk Factors for Serious Violence
  - Substance Use
  - Delinquency
  - General Offenses
  - Bullying
  - Weak Conventional Ties
  - Antisocial Peers
  - Gang involvement
  - Poor Attitudes about School
  - Poor School Performance
  - Unmet Mental Health Needs
  - Aggression

Source: Adapted from Youth Violence: A Report of the Surgeon General
I-Clicker Survey Question 5- Do you know if your students feel safe at school?

- I-Clicker Button A = NO
- I-Clicker Button B = YES
I-Clicker Survey Question 6- Do you know what percentage of students are being bullied at your school?

- I-Clicker Button A = NO
- I-Clicker Button B = YES
I-Clicker Survey Question 7 – Do you know what percentage of your students have been drinking in the last 30 days?

- I-Clicker Button A = NO
- I-Clicker Button B = YES
I-Clicker Survey Question 8– Do you know what percentage of your students are using marijuana?

- I-Clicker Button A = NO
- I-Clicker Button B = YES
Surveys: student opinions; staff opinions

Data Collection Instruments: attendance records; discipline/referral records; information from hotline (Safe2Tell)

Safety/Security/Planning Checklists: tasks completed in prevention, preparedness, response, recovery

Risk Assessments: determine student’s risk for delinquency and violence

Threat Assessment Instruments: student threat information
I-Clicker Survey Question 9 – Prior to most incidents, other people were unaware of the attacker’s idea and/or plan to attack?

- I-Clicker Button A = NO
- I-Clicker Button B = YES
Assessing Student Threats

- I-Clicker Survey Question 10 - There is a useful profile of students who engage in targeted school violence?
  - I-Clicker Button A = NO
  - I-Clicker Button B = YES
I-Clicker Survey Question 11 - The central question in a threat assessment inquiry or investigation is whether a student poses a threat, not whether the student has made a threat?

- I-Clicker Button A = NO
- I-Clicker Button B = YES
Surveys

- Barometers of School Climate (CSPV)
  - SPARK Elementary School Youth Climate Survey
  - VOLT Middle/High School Youth Climate Survey
  - CHARGE Administrator/Teacher/Staff Climate Survey
- Healthy Kids (Omni)
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS-CO DPHE)
- Profiles of Student Life (Search Institute)
- Others
I-Clicker Survey Question 12 - Does your school currently administer a climate survey?

- I-Clicker Button A = NO
- I-Clicker Button B = YES
- I-Click Button C = I don’t know
SCSS Student Climate Surveys

- Measure Risk/Protective Factors for Violence & Other Problem Behaviors
- Students in Grades 3-12
- Core Questionnaire with Optional Scales
- Administered Online
- Anonymous
- Online Report of Results
  - Provides state* and national comparisons for particular risk factors/questions where available
- Free to all schools in Colorado

*state comparisons are currently not available
How Long do the Surveys Take?

- **SPARK-Elementary Student Climate Survey**
  - 30 minutes (grades 3 and above)

- **VOLT-Middle/High Student Climate Survey**
  - 45 minutes

- **CHARGE-Elementary Student Climate Survey**
  - 5 minutes/allow 10 minutes to complete it in one sitting
What Does Our Student Climate Survey Measure?

- School Climate*
- Bullying*
- Violence-perpetration & victimization*
- Weapon Carrying & Use
- Smoking & Drugs*
- Truancy
- Gang Involvement*
- Mental Health
- Bonding time with family*
- Mental Health
- Parental control & monitoring*
- Parents value prosocial behavior*
- Trust*
- Involvement in school & community activities
- Health and wellness
- Physical safety
- Self-efficacy (academic*, emotional, self-regulatory)
- Moral Disengagement

*Core Modules/Scales
What Does Our Staff Climate Survey Measure?

- School Climate*
  - Positive Feelings and Attitudes Toward the School
  - Clean and Orderly Campus
  - Perceptions of Safety & Supervision
  - Strong Academic Orientation
  - Respect from Teachers
  - Staff Morale
  - Teacher Support
  - Clear and Fair Discipline Policies
  - Respect for Authority
  - Code of Silence
  - Importance of Listening in Schools

- Problem Behaviors
- School Safety Planning and Crisis Response
- Effective Community Partnerships
- Parental Involvement

*Core Modules/Scales
Steps to Administer a Student Climate Survey

SCSS staff work with schools to:

- Tailor the survey to their needs
- Schedule survey date
- Schedule computer lab/s
- Test online survey
- Obtain necessary parental consent
- Obtain at least 80% student participation
Steps to Administer a Staff Climate Survey

SCSS staff work with schools to:

- Schedule survey time frame - start & end dates
- Test online survey
- Provide suggestions to obtain at least 80% staff participation
  - Staff includes: administrators, teachers, support staff, paraprofessionals, as well all part-time staff who have direct contact with students.
- Administer online survey - via an email to the principal of the school with link to survey - principal forwards the email to the staff
Safe Communities~Safe Schools
Barometers of School Safety

http://ibs.colorado.edu/cspv/safeschools/testsite/
How should Data be used?

- Strategic planning to identify and address areas of concern
- Monitor and evaluate efforts
- Sustainability
Strategic Planning SCSS Technical Assistance –

- Provide Summary Report
- Provide Strategic Planning
  - Prioritize challenges/needs/problem behaviors identified in the data
  - Provide informational resources to address challenges/needs/problem behaviors
    - Evidence-Based Program Information
      - Effects of program
      - Target population
      - Training/Materials/Cost
Creating or maintaining a positive school climate is important

- School climate is related to school performance and graduation rates

Use data to understand your school climate and risk for violence strengths and needs

Use evidence-based programs and strategies to address your needs

Monitor and evaluate your efforts
I-Clicker Survey Question 13 - Do you like using the I-Clickers?

- I-Clicker Button A = NO
- I-Clicker Button B = YES