



Conditions for Learning Survey, Grades 3-12

Survey Background

The Department identified the Conditions for Learning (CfL) student survey as an indicator within the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Accountability Index. The survey was designed under the Iowa Safe and Supportive School (IS3) grant from the Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, which was awarded to Iowa in 2010. This survey was a part of the IS3 Index, which measured conditions for learning in schools. The Conditions for Learning survey measures three domains:

- **Safety.** This domain includes the extent to which students are safe from physical harm while on school property, as well as safe from verbal abuse, teasing and exclusion.
- **Engagement.** This domain includes the extent to which students and adults demonstrate respect for each other's differences; the extent to which students demonstrate care for, respect for, and collaboration with one another; and the extent to which adults demonstrate caring and respect for students and acknowledge students' work.
- **Environment.** This domain includes the extent to which clear rules are delineated and enforced.

There are two versions of the Conditions for Learning survey - one for students in grades 3-5 and one for students in grades 6-12. The 3-5 survey consists of 25 survey items that have been shortened or revised from the 40 items on the 6-12 so that they are age appropriate.

Both surveys cover the same three domains (Safety, Engagement, and Environment) within the same five constructs: Physical Safety, Emotional Safety, Adult-Student Relationships, Student-Student Relationships, and Expectations/Boundaries. Each survey also contains demographic questions such as age, grade, gender, and race and ethnicity.

The Conditions for Learning survey is collected online (accommodations, including the option to complete with a pencil and paper, are available). To maintain the anonymity of students, each school was provided a unique URL containing the building identifier. Schools were to provide parents with a letter notifying them of the survey and giving them the choice to opt their student out of taking the survey; in addition, at any point students could also choose not to participate in this voluntary survey.

Summary of 2019 Statewide Survey Participation	Number	Percent
Survey Completion. Number/percent of schools that participated in the survey	1229	99.4%
Non-Completion. Number/percent of schools that did not participate in the survey	8	0.65%
Total. Total number/percent of schools that received the survey	1237	100.0%

Iowa School Performance Profile

The Conditions for Learning measure score is included on the Iowa School Performance Profile (ISPP). The first graph on the Conditions for Learning School Details page is the school's composite score. Below the composite score is a chart showing the construct scores for all students. The remaining charts show the composite and construct scores by race and student subgroup, as applicable.

The accountability view includes only those responses that meet the criteria for inclusion in analysis (see *Score Calculation* and *Data Preparation*), as well as the subgroups that are required to be part of the accountability index according to ESSA. The in-depth view adds any responses that did not meet the criteria for analysis, as well as additional subgroups that are required to be reported, but not part of accountability determinations.

For 2019, only surveys from students in grades 6 through 12 are included in schools' accountability scores, while all surveys from students in grades 3 through 12 are included in the in-depth view. Results from the first statewide administration of the survey to students in grades 3-5 in 2019 indicated that the survey items were not at the reliability level of the 6-12 survey items. Therefore, the 3-5 results are reported but do not count towards a school's accountability score.

Questions regarding the ISPP and how the Conditions for Learning results are calculated can be directed to Jay Pennington, Bureau Chief of Information and Analysis Services, at jay.pennington@iowa.gov.

EdInsight Report

A report of item-level results is available for schools that participated in the survey and have at least 10 students that participated (overall and by subgroup), even if no score was given on the ISPP. The items are shown by construct, and may be viewed for all students or by subgroup. Data are redacted when the row total is less than 10 to protect the anonymity of the students. Users have the option to select from Accountable or All responses to view results.

- Accountable Responses data are responses that met the criteria to be included in the accountability score, and aligns with the accountability view on the ISPP (for 2019, grades 6-12).
- All Responses data includes any response for any question, and aligns with the in-depth view on the ISPP (for 2019, grades 3-12). It includes both responses included in the accountability score and those excluded.

To save an Excel version of the report, click the HTML drop down button at the top of the page, then View in Excel Options and select View in Excel 2007 Format. A new window will pop up with the file, which will have each construct on a different tab. The report is formatted so that filters and sorting can be applied in Excel.

Score Calculation

Please refer to the [Iowa Statewide Accountability Guide](#) for the calculation of the Conditions for Learning measure. The table below shows the answer options for each construct, with the positive responses underlined and in bold¹.

¹ Two items are reversely scored, thus the positive responses are different. For the item "Other students made me feel included in their group of friends," all answers except "0 times (Never)" are positive. For the item "The rules at this school are hard to understand," "Strongly Disagree"/"Disagree" or "No" are positive.

Construct	3-5 Survey Response Options	6-12 Survey Response Options
Physical Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Never (0 times)</u> • Sometimes (1 or 2 times) • Often (3-5 times) • Very Often (6 or more times) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>0 times</u> • 1 or 2 times • 3-5 times • 6 or more times
Emotional Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Never (0 times)</u> • Sometimes (1 or 2 times) • Often (3-5 times) • Very Often (6 or more times) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>0 times</u> • 1 time • 2 times • 3-5 times • 6-10 times • 11 or more times
Adult-Student Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Yes</u> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strongly Agree</u> • <u>Agree</u> • Disagree • Strongly Disagree
Student-Student Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Yes</u> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strongly Agree</u> • <u>Agree</u> • Disagree • Strongly Disagree
Expectations and Boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Yes</u> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Strongly Agree</u> • <u>Agree</u> • Disagree • Strongly Disagree

ESSA Score and Report Determination

Participation	Conditions for Learning Score on ISPP	Item Level Results in EdInsight
Did not participate	Score of zero	No
<50% enrollment participation	Score of zero	Yes, if N ≥ 10
≥50% participation	If school enrollment of grades 3-12 is < 20, the weight of CfL measure is distributed to other Index Indicators	Yes, if N ≥ 10
	If N > 20 from grades 3-5 only, the weight of CfL measure is distributed to other Index Indicators	Yes, if N ≥ 10
	If N > 20 from grades 6-12, receive normally weighted score	Yes

Data Preparation

The Department has an established protocol for preparing survey data. The number of responses received per school are compared to the fall enrollment for verifying that the overall participation and grade

participation are within a normal range (because 2018-2019 fall enrollment is a point in time collection, enrollment at the time of the survey may be different).

The following are the criteria used for inclusion in score analysis.

- Individual responses must have at least 50% of the non-demographic items completed to be included in analysis (13 items for the 3-5 survey and 20 items for the 6-12 survey).
- Individual responses must have at least one complete construct to be included in analysis (must have answered all the items in one of five constructs).
- Individual responses must have all items in a single construct completed to be included in that construct analysis.
- Individual grade outliers are not included in analysis. For example, a 3rd grade response submitted for a 9-12 building is not included. A second individual verified a sample of these grade outlier removals to confirm.
- Additionally, individual duplicate surveys (e.g. an error in the collection website duplicated a survey key) or known duplicate sets of responses (e.g. a school surveyed a group of students twice) were not included in analysis.

Using Conditions for Learning Results

The Conditions for Learning survey is one source of information regarding the environment of learning in a school - the results provide a snapshot, but may not tell the whole story of student perspective.

- The data should be used along with other sources for data-based decision making or as a starting point for gathering additional student data.
- We strongly recommend looking at whole-construct scores, rather than individual items, to identify priority areas on which to focus efforts, or according to create an action plan according subgroup scores.
- It is strongly recommended *not* to use report data for high-stakes decisions if participation is less than 50%. However, schools can use this information to increase participation in the following survey administration.

The state has not set benchmarks for this particular measure, as it is still early in administration statewide. A higher score is indicative of a more positive perception of the school's environment.

The toolkits developed under the IS3 grant are excellent resources to use in identifying priority areas and creating an action plan for improving school climate. A new toolkit is being developed to use with any of the five Conditions for Learning constructs. We anticipate that this toolkit will be available for statewide use by the summer of 2020.

- IS3 Toolkit 1: [Improving Adult and Student Relationships](#)
- IS3 Toolkit 2: [Addressing Discipline](#)
- IS3 Toolkit 3: [Addressing Bullying](#)
- IS3 Toolkit 4: [Setting Clear Boundaries and Expectations](#)
- IS3 Toolkit 5: [Improving Student-Student Relationships](#)

Additional Information

For additional Conditions for Learning information, see the Department's Every Student Succeeds Act webpage or contact Courtney Clement, Federal Programs and Data Consultant, at courtney.clement@iowa.gov.