Resources for School Climate & Culture

Tier 1

Resource Brief, February, 2016.

Elisabeth Kane & Reece L. Peterson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Improving school climate has been shown to improve students' academic performance, while decreasing drop-out rates, bullying and physical violence, and teacher attrition. Choosing the best resources, measures, programs, and processes for your school is crucial to making a substantial impact on school climate. The following resources are only a sample of the available resources and this document is not meant to be an exhaustive list. The resources provided in this document were chosen because they were supported by the research and sources used in the "School Climate and Culture Strategy Brief". Additional related resources are available in various other strategy briefs and resource documents at http://k12engagement.unl.edu (e.g. Bullying, Classroom Management, Student Engagement).

The Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) -School Improvement Tool

http://sitool.ascd.org/Default.aspx
http://sitool.ascd.org/info/learn_more_video.htm

ASCD's goal is to encourage the success of each child through innovative strategies. Their school improvement tool is a free online needs assessment survey that can help your school obtain immediate results about strengths, weaknesses, and direction for improvement in 15 minutes. The results are meant to help school personnel determine what steps should be prioritized in order to improve their school. The survey provides results indicating how healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged students are. Also, feedback is given on indicators of sustainability, school climate and culture, instruction and curriculum, leadership, family and community engagement, professional development, staff capacity, and assessment. Watch ASCD's "Learn More" video for more information on the School Improvement Tool.

Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment in Our Nation's Classrooms

http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/creating-safe-and-respectful-environment-our-nations-classrooms-training-toolkit

This training toolkit includes two modules that address bullying in classrooms. Specifically, it is designed to guide teachers in encouraging meaningful relationships among students while simultaneously building a positive climate in the classroom.
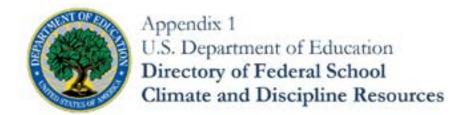
Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment in Our Nation's School Buses

http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/creating-safe-and-respectful-environment-our-nations-class-rooms-training-toolkit

This training toolkit includes two modules that address bullying on school buses. Specifically, it is designed to support school bus drivers in promoting meaningful relationships with students while concurrently creating a positive climate on the bus.

Directory of Federal School Climate and Discipline Resources

http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/sites/default/files/3_Appendix%201_Directory%20of%20Federal%20School%20Climate%20and%20Discipline%20Resources.pdf

Appendix 1
U.S. Department of Education
Directory of Federal School
Climate and Discipline Resources

This document was produced by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students Contract with the American Institutes for Research (AIR). This document includes a wealth of resources and websites created by a variety of organizations. The U.S. Department of Education does not endorse any of the products, commodities, services, websites, or enterprise included in the document. The U.S. Department of Education, U.S. departments of Justice and Health and Human Services, among others, have developed this list of resources and services available to schools and communities in order to improve school climate and ensure safe and supportive learning environments.

The document also describes three main guiding principles of school climate reform and related steps: (1) Climate and Prevention; (2) Clear, Appropriate, and Consistent Expectations and Consequences; and (3) Equity and Continuous Improvement. This document should be used in conjunction with these guiding principles – resources are listed for each guideline.

National School Climate Center
Educating Minds and Hearts...Because the Three Rs are Not Enough

National School Climate Center (NSCC)

http://www.schoolclimate.org/index.php

NSCC envisions that all children develop essential social, emotional, and intellectual skills to become healthy and productive members of society. NSCC seeks to measure and improve the school climate in order to aid children and help them reach their full potential. NSCC specifically works to improve student

performance, prevent dropouts, lessen physical violence and bullying, and foster adults to have positive and healthy engagement.

NSCC provides a wealth of information for measuring school climate: their school climate improvement process; school climate policy; dimensions of school climate; as well as current research and publications. NSCC also provides an array of professional development programs and services to improve K-12 schools and contexts.

National School Climate Center - School Climate Resource Center (SCRC)

http://scrc.schoolclimate.org

The NSCC's SCRC provides a variety of resources to aid schools in each stage of the school climate improvement process. Resources include assessment measures, tools and learning modules, and plans for sustaining reforms.

You can buy unlimited access to the SCRC, which includes: the NSCC "Road Map" for school climate reform; learning modules; "A School Readiness Assessment" for school leaders; current information on school climate standards, policy, and law; and a learning community for dispersing and exploring ideas, examples, and best practices. You can additionally make it a package by including either on-site professional development or their nationally recognized Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI).

A list of FAQs about the SCRC can be found at: http://scrc.schoolclimate.org/scrc-faq.html
They provide a list of other resources here: http://scrc.schoolclimate.org/resources.html

National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE)

http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/

The NCSSLE, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students, addresses issues and factors that affect learning in schools and communities across the country in order for students to obtain academic success in safe and supportive environments. The center provides training and support to state, school, and district administrators, institutions of higher education, teachers, school personnel, communities, families, and students. Additionally, they attempt to improve learn-

ing conditions in schools via measurement and program implementation.

The website provides information about the center's services, products and tools, and latest research results. On the website, you can find specific pages for education levels, engagement, safety, environment, school climate measurement, and implementation of programs. They provide research, information, and resources on these topics. The measurement section includes a School Climate Survey Compendium, which indicates reliable and valid school climate surveys and tools with varying target populations/respondents. The implementation page provides a free checklist for identifying and implementing programmatic interventions.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education released the School Climate Transformation Grant Program, which is awarding more than $70 million between 125 school districts to improve school climate and student safety. This "provide[s] competitive grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to develop, enhance, or expand systems of support for, and technical assistance to, schools implementing an evidence-based multi-tiered behavioral framework for improving behavioral outcomes and learning conditions for all students" (School Climate Transformation Grant, n.d.).

Measurement

http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/topic-research/school-climate-measurement

School Climate Survey Compendium

http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/topic-research/school-climate-measurement/school-climate-survey-compendium

Implementation Checklist
Word document available for download under "Identifying and Implementing Programmatic Interventions in Your School and Community"

http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/topic-research/program-implementation

School Climate Measures

The following measures are a sample of the many available school climate assessments. The chart is not an exhaustive list of available school climate measurement resources; rather, the included measures are examples of school climate measures seen across relevant research examined in the strategy brief and they provide evidence of reliability and validity. Specific needs and focuses in individual schools should be carefully considered when selecting measurement methods. Many other measures also exist that pertain to specific dimensions of school climate, such as bullying, victimization, and peer relationships. Each state may also have requirements related to school climate assessment. See our Policy Q & A on School Climate Assessment.

Survey Name(s)	Source	Respondents	Purpose/Components
Elementary or Secondary School Climate Assessment Instruments – General and Student Forms Community School Assessment Instrument (SCAI-S-G; SCAI-S-S; SCAI-E-G & SCAI-E-S; SCAI-P)	Alliance for the Study of School Climate http://web.calstatela.edu/centers/school-climate/assessment/- scai	Secondary & Elementary Teachers/Staff Parents Administrators External Consultants Students	Physical Appearance Faculty Relations Student Interactions Leadership/Decisions Discipline Environment Learning/Assessment Attitude and Culture Community Relations
California School Climate Survey (CSCS) California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) California School Parent Survey (CSPS)	California Department of Education http://cscs.wested.org http://chks.wested.org http://csps.wested.org	School Staff Students Parents	Guide school improvement efforts and foster positive learning and teaching environments Help understand the relationship between students' health behaviors and academic performance Use parent reported information to foster parent involvement, student achievement, health, and well-being
Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI)	National School Climate Center http://www.school-climate.org/climate/csci.php	Students Teachers Parents Community	Obtain comprehensive picture of school's learning climate Assess student, staff, parent, & community perceptions of school climate Provide foundation for NSCC 5-step school climate improvement process Used as needs assessment and/or pre/post measure of change over time
Effective School Battery (ESB)	University of Maryland College of Education http://www.education.umd.edu/CHSE/resources/Assessment/ESB.html	Student form Teacher form	Assess secondary school climate Identify schools' strengths and weaknesses Develop improvement plans Evaluate improvement projects.
Readiness Assessment and Process Self-Study Assessment Tools	National School Climate Center http://www.school-climate.org/climate/assessments.php	Administration	Guide school leaders to consider: Current state of the school What can and should be the focus to best support an effective school improvement process

Recommended Citation

http://k12engagement.unl.edu