

# School Climate, Where Are We Now? (6-8)

## Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies

**Summary:** Students design, distribute, and analyze school climate surveys to determine school needs. Then they formulate a plan to improve school climate.

### Service and Learning Activities

**Preparation:** Invite the school SAFE advisor or counselor to discuss a safe and healthy school climate that encourages educational success. How does an ideal school climate look? Students research school climate. Discuss obstacles to an excellent school climate (e.g., violence, drug use, gangs, bullying, behavior problems, threats, racism). Work together to create a school climate survey to determine the areas needing improvement.

**Action:** Publicize and distribute surveys to the student body. Have students complete the surveys, then collect and analyze the data. Where are the weak areas as far as your school climate? Is there a lot of drug use, violence, gang activity, or bullying? Create a school climate report based on the survey results, and share it with school administrators and teachers. Create an education campaign to address areas of need. Have students plan workshops, public service announcements, skits, poster contests, and other awareness activities related to identified needs.

**Reflection:** Journal or discuss as a class - What did you learn from the survey results? What surprised you? How did you feel about the campaign? What could you have changed? What went well? What changes have taken place since the campaign was launched? What are some next steps? What were the greatest challenges? What impact(s) did the project have on those serving and served?

**Demonstration:** Students can create and present poems, public service announcements, songs, artwork, lessons, videos, skits, displays, or murals to teach other students or the larger community about the project, the need(s) it addresses, and the impact of their efforts.

### Standards

**Language Arts:** The student

- LA.A.1.3 Uses the reading process effectively.
- LA.C.1.3 Uses listening strategies effectively.
- LA.B.1.3 Uses writing processes effectively.
- LA.D.2.3 Understands the power of language.

**Social Studies:** The student

- SS.C.2.3 Understands the role of the citizen in American democracy.

**Mathematics:** The student

- MA.B.1.3 Measures quantities in the real world and uses the measures to solve problems.
- MA.E.3.3 Uses statistical methods to make inferences and valid arguments about real-world situations.

### Academic Objectives

- Understand the importance of a safe and healthy school climate
- Learn and demonstrate proper use of research, reading, and writing skills
- Learn how to collect and interpret data for statistical purposes
- Create an unbiased survey based on research
- Use knowledge and skills create a meaningful educational campaign to educate students on issues relating to a safe and healthy school climate

**Assessment(s):** Survey, school climate campaign activities, journals, and research

### Service Objectives

- Study school climate, create and analyze surveys, and launch a campaign to improve the climate based on survey data.

**Assessment(s):** Changes in school climate, year-end survey