

# San Francisco Unified School District - Student Support Services

## School Climate Survey Report 2008

### SFUSD Elementary Level

In the fall semester of the 2007-2008 school year, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) commissioned the most comprehensive survey of school climate and school safety ever conducted in the district's history. The goal of the SFUSD School Climate Survey (SCS) was to collect meaningful information from students and staff about their perspectives on school climate and school safety. In contrast to previous surveys conducted in the district, where randomized sampling procedures have been used to generate representative results at the district-level, the SFUSD SCS was administered to all students in grades 5 - 12 in all elementary, middle, and high schools.

This report includes overall results for all 69 participating SFUSD elementary schools for all items appearing on the 2008 SFUSD School Climate Survey.

**Ultimately, survey return rates determine the strength of population representation. That is, the higher the proportion of the student population that completes the survey, the more confidence we can have that the results accurately reflect the perspectives and opinions of all students at the school.**

**A consent return rate of at least 70% and a survey response rate of at least 60% is a minimum requirement for 5<sup>th</sup> grade population representation. Districtwide return and response indicators at the elementary level show that overall results may not represent *all* students in *all* SFUSD elementary schools. Individually, 30 of 69 (43%) schools did meet or exceed minimum representation standards.**

**Table 1: School Enrollment, Consent Return Rate, Surveys Completed & Response Rate**

		5th Grade Enrollment	Consent Form Return Rate	Surveys Completed	Response Rate
		N	%	N	%
School/SFUSD	SFUSD	3832	63	2029	53

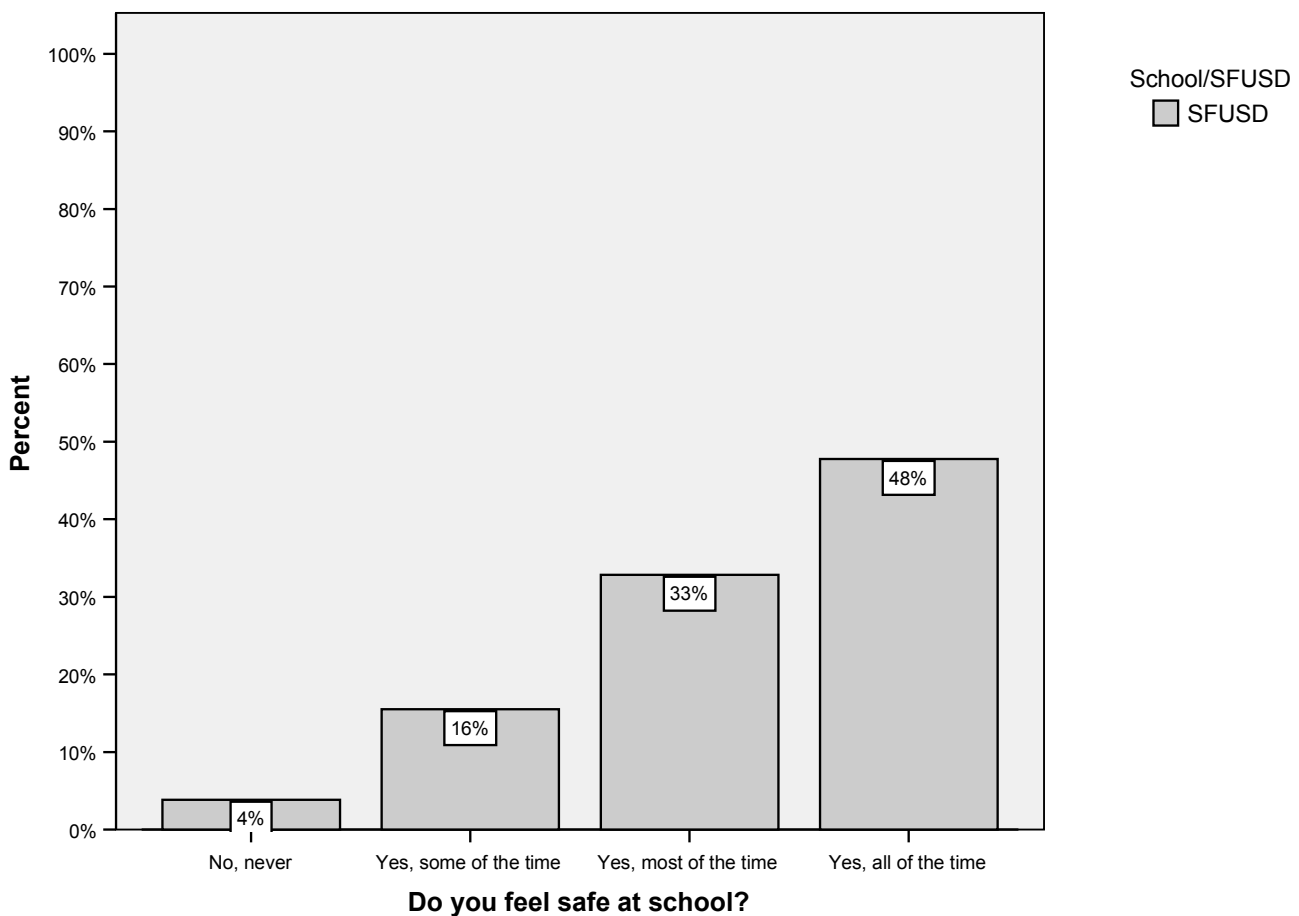
# San Francisco Unified School District - Student Support Services School Climate Survey Report 2008 SFUSD Elementary Level

## Section One - Safety at School

The first section provides results on several indicators of students' perception of safety in your school environment. Chart 1 shows results for the question "Do you feel safe at school?" The California Department of Education has identified the percentage of students who reply "yes, all of the time" as a required performance indicator for Local Education Agency plans. The CDE requires SFUSD to develop and implement safety plans that address this performance indicator, and each school is also required to address the indicator in the site planning process. The most recent statewide results, which included data from over 198,000 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, showed that 54% reported feeling safe "all of the time" at their school (WestEd, 2006).

**Chart 1: Do you feel safe at school? (CDE Performance Indicator PI = % Yes, all of the time)\***

\*SDFSCA/TUPE performance indicator required by CDE for Local Education Agency Plans



**San Francisco Unified School District - Student Support Services  
School Climate Survey Report 2008  
SFUSD Elementary Level**

Students also reported their feeling of safety in selected parts of the school, including hallways, bathrooms, classrooms, and on the playground (Table 2).

**Table 2: Do you feel safe in the following places at school this year?**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		N	%
Do you feel safe in the bathrooms at school this year?	Yes	1440	73%
	No	545	27%
Do you feel safe in the hallways at school this year?	Yes	1749	88%
	No	236	12%
Do you feel safe in the classrooms at school this year?	Yes	1897	95%
	No	93	5%
Do you feel safe in the playground at school this year?	Yes	1621	82%
	No	355	18%

**Section Two - Harrassment & Bullying on School Property**

This section includes students's reports on several indicators of harrassment and bullying on school property.

Results show that significant percentages of students reported engaging in physical and verbal harassment at school (Table 3), and many reported being victimized by these behaviors (Table 4).

**Table 3: During the past year, have you (1) hit or pushed other kids at school when you were not playing around and (2) spread mean rumours or lies about other kids at school?**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		N	%
hit or pushed other kids at school	No	1146	58%
	Yes	830	42%
spread mean rumors or lies about other kids at school	No	1369	69%
	Yes	610	31%

**San Francisco Unified School District - Student Support Services  
School Climate Survey Report 2008  
SFUSD Elementary Level**

**Table 4: Victimization - During the past year, have you (1) been hit or pushed other kids at school when you were not playing around and (2) had mean rumours or lies spread about you by other kids at school?**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		N	%
been hit or pushed RVS	No	827	41%
	Yes	1169	59%
had a mean rumour or lie spread RVS	No	903	45%
	Yes	1084	55%

Students also provided data about weapons carrying at school (Table 5). Results show that few students report bringing weapons to their Elementary School.

**Table 5: During the past year, did you (1) ever bring a gun or knife to school and (2) ever see another kid with a gun or knife at school?**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		N	%
Brought gun or knife	Yes	25	1%
	No	1960	99%
Saw student with gun or knife	Yes	415	21%
	No	1570	79%

**San Francisco Unified School District - Student Support Services  
School Climate Survey Report 2008  
SFUSD Elementary Level**

Students were asked about their perceptions of the level of protection staff provide from violence, harassment, and bullying at school. Results show that students perceive less protection from physical and verbal harassment outside the classroom than inside the classroom (Table 6).

**Table 6: Perceived Protection - Teachers and staff keep me safe from...**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		#	%
...pushing and shoving inside the classroom.	No, never	128	6%
	Yes, some of the time	282	14%
	Yes, most of the time	414	21%
	Yes, all of the time	1174	59%
...pushing and shoving outside the classroom.	No, never	194	10%
	Yes, some of the time	447	22%
	Yes, most of the time	540	27%
	Yes, all of the time	808	41%
...name calling inside the classroom.	No, never	189	10%
	Yes, some of the time	326	16%
	Yes, most of the time	480	24%
	Yes, all of the time	987	50%
...name calling outside the classroom.	No, never	299	15%
	Yes, some of the time	499	25%
	Yes, most of the time	504	25%
	Yes, all of the time	678	34%

**San Francisco Unified School District - Student Support Services  
 School Climate Survey Report 2008  
 SFUSD Elementary Level**

Table 7 shows data on an aspect of school climate at it relates to gay, lesbian, and bisexual, and questioning youth. Students were asked how often they heard other students using derogatory remarks about sexual orientation (such as "fag" or "that's so gay"). Results show that a majority of students hear these remarks in the school environment.

**Table 7: Have you ever heard students using put downs or name-calling such as 'fag' or 'that's so gay'?**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		N	%
Heard students using put downs or name calling such as "fag" or "that's so gay"?	No	406	21%
	Yes	1574	79%

**San Francisco Unified School District - Student Support Services  
School Climate Survey Report 2008  
SFUSD Elementary Level**

**Section Four - School Environment Assets Results**

Tables 8 through 11 show the results of the School Environment Assets scales developed by WestEd as part of the CDE’s California Healthy Kids Survey. School environment assets are characteristics and qualities of your school across three measurement domains (1) caring relationships with adults at school, (2) meaningful participation in the school community, (3) high expectations from adults at school. Several questions on the survey were combined according to WestEd analysis protocols to produce data that are comparable at the school, district, and state levels. The CDE requires the following four performance indicators for Local Education Agencies.

**Statewide Results - Caring Relationships: Adult in School.** The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 60% “high”, 37% “moderate”, and 3% “low” (WestEd, 2006).

**Table 8: School Environment Assets: Caring Relationship with Adult at School**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		#	%
Caring Relationships	Low	53	3%
	Moderate	863	43%
	High	1073	54%

*\*Based on WestEd and CDE’s California Healthy Kids Survey Items. Used with Permission.*

**Statewide Results - High Expectations: Adult in School.** The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 63% “high”, 35% “moderate”, and 2% “low”.

**Table 9: School Environment Assets: High Expectations**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		#	%
High Expectations	Low	42	2%
	Moderate	842	43%
	High	1095	55%

*\*Based on WestEd and CDE’s California Healthy Kids Survey Items. Used with Permission.*

**San Francisco Unified School District - Student Support Services  
School Climate Survey Report 2008  
SFUSD Elementary Level**

**Statewide Results - Meaningful Participation.** The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 19% “high”, 67% “moderate”, and 15% “low”.

**Table 10: School Environment Assets: Meaningful Participation**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		#	%
Meaningful Participation	Low	223	11%
	Moderate	1423	72%
	High	337	17%

*\*Based on WestEd and CDE's California Healthy Kids Survey Items. Used with Permission.*

**Statewide Results - Total School Environment Assets.** The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 54% “high”, 43% “moderate”, and 3% “low”.

**Table 11: School Environment Assets: Total School Assets**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		#	%
Total School Assets	Low	65	3%
	Moderate	923	47%
	High	963	49%

*\*Based on WestEd and CDE's California Healthy Kids Survey Items. Used with Permission.*

**San Francisco Unified School District - Student Support Services  
 School Climate Survey Report 2008  
 SFUSD Elementary Level**

**Section Five - Characteristics of Surveyed Students**

The final section provides information on the characteristics of the students who completed a survey at your school and for the overall SFUSD sample. Results are provided for student gender (Table 12) and age (Table 13). Depending on your school's return rate (Table 1), the following results should accurately reflect the characteristics of your school's student population.

**Table 12: Gender of Surveyed Students**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		N	Percent
Are you a girl or a boy?	Girl	1035	52%
	Boy	968	48%

**Table 13: Age of Surveyed Students**

		School/SFUSD	
		SFUSD	
		N	%
How old are you?	9 years old or younger	101	5%
	10 years old	1676	84%
	11 years old	217	11%
	12 years old or older	9	0%