

# San Francisco Unified School District School Climate Survey Report 2008: High School 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.

Across all high schools, over 700 teachers and their principals supported the administration of SFUSD SCS to nearly 13,000 students.

**This report summarizes overall SFUSD results and, when possible, includes comparison statewide results.**

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 *all* elementary, middle, and high schools. This method was chosen to ensure that results would be representative of each school's entire student population, depending on final return rates.

Ultimately, survey response rates determine the strength of population representation. That is, the higher the proportion of the high school student population that completes the survey, the more confidence we can have that the results accurately reflect the perspectives and opinions of students in all high schools. In 2008, the high school response rate was 72%.

**A response rate over 60% is a minimum requirement for population representation. Return rates between 70% and 80% are considered quite strong, and response rates over 80% are considered to be excellent.**

**Table 1: Survey Completion, School Enrollment, & Return Rate**

		School Enrollment	Surveys Completed	Response Rate
		N	N	%
School ID	SFUSD (HS)	17849	12943	72

## Section One - Required Performance Indicators (School Safety)

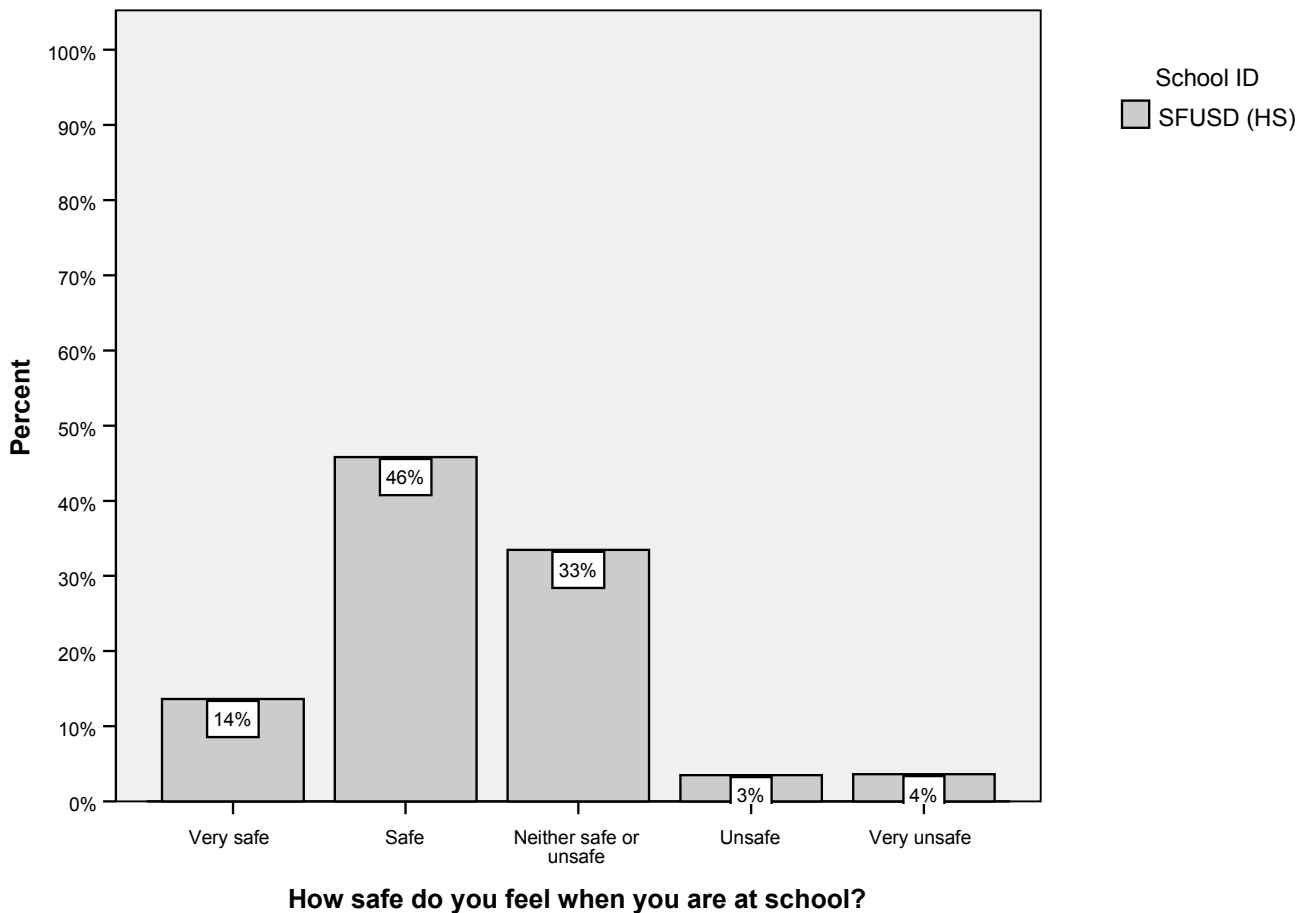
The first section provides your school's results on two performance indicators required by the California Department of Education (CDE) (Charts 1 & 2). The CDE requires SFUSD to develop and implement safety plans that address these outcomes. Each school is also required to address these outcomes in the site planning process.

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Chart 1 shows the distribution of student responses to the question “How safe do you feel when you are at school?” The California Department of Education has identified the percentage of students who reply “very safe” as a required performance indicator for Local Education Agency plans.

**Chart 1: How safe do you feel when you are at school? (CDE Performance Indicator = % Very Safe)\***

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



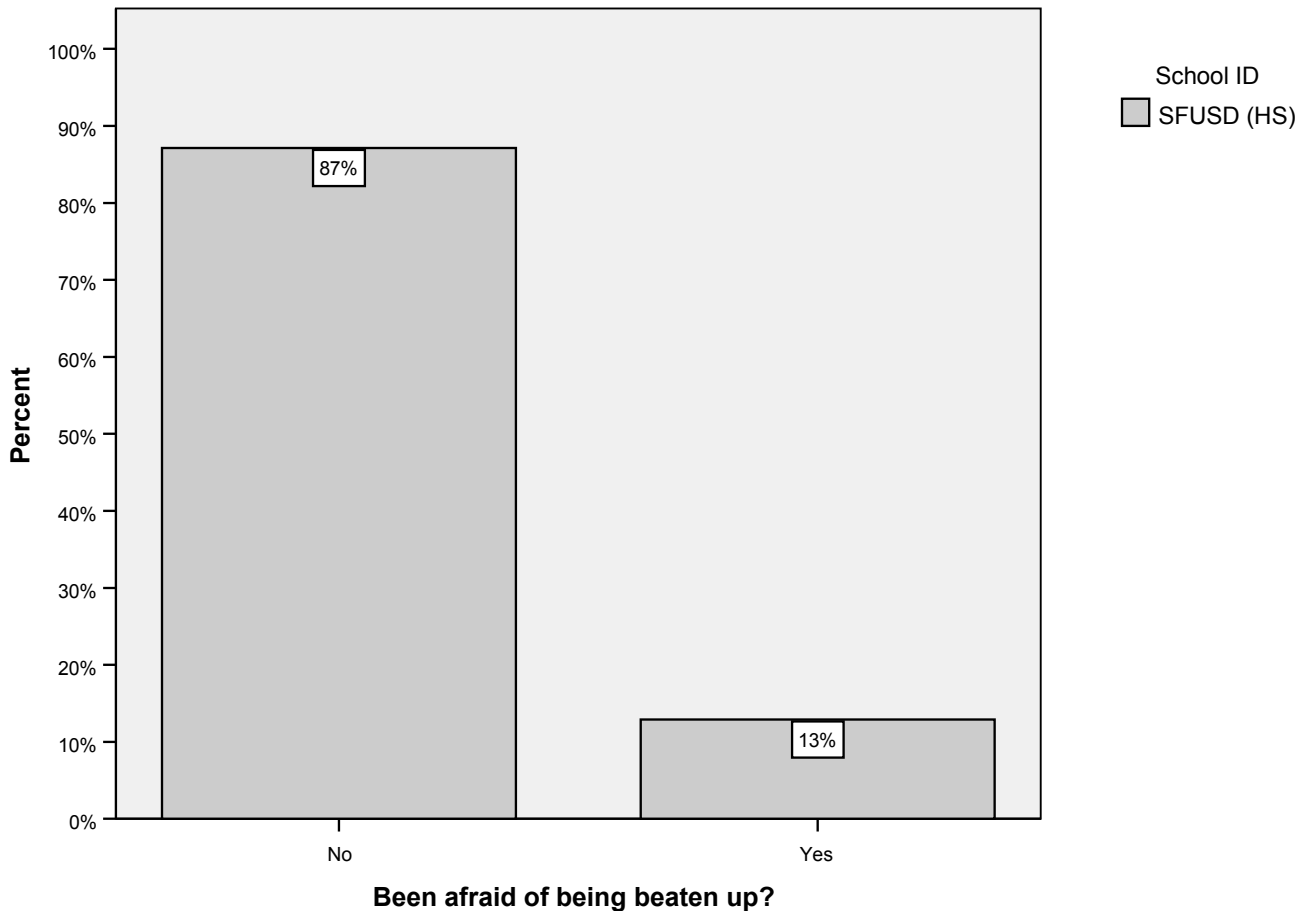
The most recent statewide results, which included data from over 180,000 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, showed that 16% reported feeling “very safe” at school in California (WestEd, 2006).

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Chart 2 shows the percentage of students at your school who reported they had “been afraid of being beaten up at school” in the past twelve months. The percentage of students who report “yes” is also a CDE performance indicator.

**Chart 2: Have you been afraid of being beaten up at school in the past 12 months? (CDE Performance Indicator = % Yes)\***

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



Statewide results showed that 16% of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students reported being afraid of physical violence at school.

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**Section Two - Violence & Weapons at School**

This section includes students's reports on several indicators of violence exposure at school (Table 2), weapons carrying (Table 3), and gang membership (Table 4). Results show that significant numbers of students have been exposed to violence at school.

**Table 2: Violence in School - During the past 12 months at school, have you...**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Been in a physical fight?	Yes	1609	13%
	No	11128	87%
Been threatened or injured with a weapon?	Yes	932	7%
	No	11794	93%
Had your property stolen or damaged?	Yes	2687	21%
	No	10088	79%

**Table 3: Weapons in School - During the past 12 months at school, have you...**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Carried a gun?	Yes	620	5%
	No	12143	95%
Carried any other weapon?	Yes	1245	10%
	No	11519	90%
Seen someone carrying a gun or other weapon?	Yes	3401	27%
	No	9278	73%

According to these results, at least 620 firearms were carried into SFUSD high schools in the past year, and the actual number of gun carrying incidents in schools may be larger, as most of the students who report carrying a gun to school report carrying a gun four or more times in the previous year.

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**Table 4: Do you consider yourself a member of a gang?**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Do you consider yourself a member of a gang?	No	11835	93%
	Yes	923	7%

**Section Three - Harrassment & Bullying Results**

Table 5 shows student reports of harassment or bullying based on perceived characteristics. Note that harassment or bullying for reasons of “race, ethnicity, or national origin” was the most common form reported. Another common response was “any other reason”, suggesting that other types of harassment or bullying are occurring.

**Table 5: Harassment in School - During the past 12 months on school property were you harrassed or bullied for any of the following reasons?**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Your race, ethnicity, or national origin	Yes	2305	18%
	No	10452	82%
Your religion	Yes	930	7%
	No	11830	93%
Your gender (being male or female)	Yes	1018	8%
	No	11717	92%
Gay or lesbian*	Yes	911	7%
	No	11803	93%
Transgender*	Yes	477	4%
	No	12238	96%
A physical or mental disability	Yes	698	5%
	No	12028	95%
Any other reason	Yes	2146	17%
	No	10569	83%

\*Because you are gay/lesbian/transgender or someone thought you were.

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Students were asked about their perceptions of the level of protection staff provide from violence, harassment, and bullying at school. Results show that about half of students believe that teachers and staff keep them safe from exposure (Table 6).

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

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
...physical violence in the classroom	Yes	6146	49%
	No	6518	51%
...physical violence in the hallway	Yes	5243	41%
	No	7427	59%
...verbal harassment (name calling)	Yes	4388	35%
	No	8267	65%
...bullying	Yes	4677	37%
	No	7971	63%

*Item: Teachers and staff keep me safe from... (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree). "Yes" = Strongly Agree & Agree. "No" = all other responses.*

Table 7 includes the number and proportion of students who reported that they didn't go to school on at least one occasion in the past thirty days because they either "felt they would be unsafe at school" or "felt they would be unsafe on the way to or from school".

**Table 7: During the past 30 days, have you ever decided not to go to school because you felt you would be..**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
...unsafe at school?	No	11704	91%
	Yes	1132	9%
...unsafe on your way to or from school?	No	11497	90%
	Yes	1318	10%

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Table 8 shows data on two aspects of school climate as it relates to gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth. First, students were asked how often they heard other students using derogatory language about sexual orientation. Second, students were asked how often they heard teachers and staff intervene when students are using derogatory language based on sexual orientation. Results show that a majority of students hear these remarks often, and many students do not hear teachers and staff intervening when this language is used.

**Table 8: During the past twelve months, how many times have you (1) heard other students making harassing statements based on sexual orientation\*, and (2) how many times have you heard teachers/staff stop others from making harassing statements?**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Heard other students using derogatory language...	0 times	2328	18%
	1 or more times	4284	33%
	12 or more times	6187	48%
Heard teachers/staff stopping students from using derogatory language...	0 times	6199	48%
	1 to 11 times	4935	39%
	12 or more times	1657	13%

*Such as 'fag,' 'dyke,' or 'that's so gay.'*

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**Section Four - School Environment Assets Results**

Tables 9 through 12 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.

**Statewide Results - Caring Relationships: Adult in School.** The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 33% “high”, 53% “moderate”, and 14% “low” (WestEd, 2006).

**Table 9: School Environment Assets: Caring Relationship with Adult at School**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Caring Relationships	Low	1896	15%
	Medium	7738	62%
	High	2841	23%

*\*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 41% “high”, 48% “moderate”, and 11% “low”.

**Table 10: School Environment Assets: High Expectations**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
High Expectations	Low	1399	11%
	Medium	7133	57%
	High	3942	32%

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**Statewide Results - Meaningful Participation.** The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 15% “high”, 48% “moderate”, and 37% “low”.

**Table 11: School Environment Assets: Meaningful Participation**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Meaningful Participation	Low	4853	39%
	Medium	6292	50%
	High	1384	11%

*\*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 31% “high”, 50% “moderate”, and 19% “low”.

**Table 12: School Environment Assets: Total School Assets**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Total School Assets	Low	2542	21%
	Medium	7056	58%
	High	2652	22%

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

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**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 13), age (Table 14), race/ethnicity (Table 15), and sexual orientation (Table 16). Depending on your school's return rate (Table 1), the following results should accurately reflect the characteristics of your school's student population.

**Table 13: Gender of Surveyed Students**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	Percent
What is your gender?	Male	6265	49%
	Female	6436	50%
	Transgender	184	1%

**Table 14: Age of Surveyed Students.**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
How old are you?	12 years old or younger	76	1%
	13 years old	42	0%
	14 years old	2303	18%
	15 years old	3172	25%
	16 years old	3139	24%
	17 years old	3098	24%
	18 years old or older	1077	8%

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**Table 15: Race/Ethnicity of Surveyed Students.**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Race / Ethnicity	American Indian or Alaska Native	69	1%
	Black/African American	983	8%
	Caucasian/White	827	6%
	Chinese	5655	44%
	Filipino	753	6%
	Latino/Hispanic	2091	16%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	153	1%
	Other Asian	747	6%
	Other Race	66	1%
	Multiracial	1514	12%
	Missing	85	1%

**Table 16: Sexual Orientation of Surveyed Students.**

		School ID	
		SFUSD (HS)	
		N	%
Which of the following best describes you?	Heterosexual-straight	11624	91%
	Gay or Lesbian	180	1%
	Bisexual	363	3%
	Not Sure	590	5%