

The Essential Dimensions of School Climate

Safety		Examples
	Physical	Crisis plan; clearly communicated rules; clear and consistent violation response; people in the school feel physically safe; attitudes about violence.
	Social - Emotional	Attitudes about individual differences; students' and adults' attitudes about and responses to bullying; conflict resolution taught in school; belief in school rules.
Teaching and Learning		Examples
	Quality of Instruction	High expectations for student achievement; all learning styles honored; help provided when needed; learning linked to "real life"; engaging materials; use of praise/reward; opportunities for participation; varied teaching methods; instructional leadership; creativity valued; social-emotional as well as academic learning valued/taught; varied "intelligences" appreciated; connections across disciplines.
	Social, Emotional, and Ethical Skills and Education	Students/staff: feel social, emotional and ethical as well as academic learning is important; are invested in caring; appreciate importance of being able to say "no"; expect collaboration/cooperation.
	Professional Development	Standards and measures used to support learning and continuous improvement; professional development systematic and ongoing; data-driven decision making linked to learning; school systems evaluated; teachers feel that this is relevant and helpful
Relationships		Examples
	Respect for Diversity	Positive adult-adult relationships between/among teachers, administrators, and staff; positive adult-student relationships; positive student-student relationships; shared decision-making; common academic planning opportunities; diversity valued; student participation in learning and discipline.
	School-Home Partnership	Students/adults feel and demonstrate sense of community in the school. Mutual support and ongoing communication; school-community involvement; parent participation in school decision-making; shared parent-teacher norms vis-à-vis learning and behavior; student family assistance programs
	Morale	Students are engaged learners; staff are enthusiastic about their work; students connected to one or more adults; students/staff feel good about school-
Environment		Examples
	Quality and Structure	Cleanliness; adequate space and materials; inviting aesthetic quality; size of school; curricular and extra-curricular offerings