



Welcome to a  
**Community  
Conversation**  
on

**School Climate**

# Purpose of Community Conversation

To produce an open, unbiased and non-threatening conversation that examines public views to identify common ground for action on important issues in education.

# Tonight's Community Conversation

- Will help us understand our own values and assumptions about school climate.
- Will help us understand the range of view held on school climate
- Will generate a variety of ideas
- Will explore possible steps

# What is School Climate?

School climate is the social atmosphere or learning environment in which students experience learning. Reflecting:

- Relationships
- Teaching
- Learning and Leadership Practices
- Organizational Structure

Or, more simply put...

School climate is the  
“feeling” of the school.

# Dimensions of School Climate

- Physical
- Social
- Academic

# Physical Dimension

- Appearance
- Size of the school and the ratio of students to teachers in the classroom
- Order and organization of classrooms
- Resources available
- Safety and comfort

# Social Dimension

- Quality of relationships
- Equitable and fair treatment of students
- Degree of competition and social comparison
- Degree to which students, teachers, and staff and parents contribute to decision-making at the school



# Academic Dimension

- Quality of instruction
- Teacher expectations for student achievement
- Monitoring student progress and promptly reporting results to students and parents

## With regard to family involvement, Research indicates that schools with positive school climates do the following:

- Encourage families to participate and develop **relationships** with the faculty and staff and with other families.
- Contribute to the **personal growth** of families in the areas of child development, parenting skills and their own self-esteem.
- Encourage families to be **involved** in meaningful ways on issues affecting their children's education.
- Provide information to families on supporting learning in the home.

# Why are we talking about School Climate?

- Student achievement and behavior are impacted by school climate.
- School climate can be influenced and improved.
- Creating a positive school climate requires that community, school staff, parents and students work together



# Small Group Discussion: How can we can improve the climate together?



# What influences School Climate?

- How much and how well students and staff communicate
- How students and teachers feel about their school's environment or personality
- Physical environment appears safe clean and attractive
- Facility that accommodate the requirements of a contemporary curriculum
- Resources – text books, supplies and technology
- Academic performance
- The size of the school
- How safe and respected everyone feels
- Effective two way communication between home and school

# What are the characteristics of a Positive School Climate?

- Students, staff and parents feel safe, comfortable and accepted
- Healthy and respectful relationships are promoted
- Students are encouraged to be leaders and positive role models
- Parents and community members are actively engaged
- Positive behavior is reinforced
- Students are given opportunities to develop relationships
- There is a culture of high expectations
- All cultures are respected and valued

# How can we work to enhance School Climate?

- Increase parent, family and community involvement
- Implement character education or establish school values
- Provide violence prevention and conflict resolution curriculum and peer mediation
- Take bullying seriously and work to prevent it
- Ensure all students and staff are treated fairly and equitably.
- Take measures to ensure safety
- Personalize the school experience