



STUDENT CLIMATE SURVEY RESULTS 2008-2009

Survey Report AKINS HIGH SCHOOL

The following report summarizes the Student Climate Survey results for the last three years at Akins (see Table 1 for response rate). This survey measures four dimensions of a school's overall climate: *Behavioral Environment*, *Adult Fairness and Respect*, *Teacher Support and Student Engagement*, and *Academic Self-Confidence*. Research indicates that school climate can be either a positive influence on the learning environment or a significant barrier to learning. In AISSD, schools that performed better on TAKS also had higher student climate ratings (Schmitt & Carney, 2008). At the high school level, schools with higher student ratings of *Academic Self-Confidence* in particular had significantly higher TAKS performance than those with less favorable ratings of *Academic Self-Confidence*. School staff should consider each dimension of climate within the context of school policies and practices, and should discuss strategies that may support positive school climate in each area. For further assistance, contact Jane Nethercut, PBS Coordinator, in Student Support Services (414-0196).

Table 1. Akins Student Climate Survey Participants, 2008-2009

Year	Akins	All HS
Surveys returned	1,234	9,452
Students enrolled (Grades 9-11)	1,931	



TEACHER SUPPORT AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

This subscale consists of ten items that assess the extent to which teachers support students with academic issues and personal problems, and the level of enthusiasm that teachers display regarding their teaching. Average scores for each item and for the subscale are in Table 4.

Table 4. Average Response for Teacher Support and Student Engagement Items

	Akins			All HS
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2008-09
17. Teachers give rewards or praise for good behavior.	n/a	n/a	2.49	2.60
21. I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	n/a	2.57	2.53	2.50
24. My teachers are excited about what they teach.	2.81	2.92	2.84	2.98
25. My teachers like to teach.	2.98	3.04	3.00	3.13
27. My teachers show me how to know if my work is good.	2.91	2.88	2.95	2.98
28. Teachers give rewards or praise for good work.	2.53	2.54	2.56	2.64
30. My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	n/a	2.88	2.90	2.94
33. My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	n/a	2.80	2.70	2.78
34. Teachers help students with personal problems.	2.56	2.78	2.64	2.67
35. I have fun learning in my classes.	n/a	2.71	2.71	2.75
38. My teachers connect what I am learning to my life outside of the classroom.	n/a	n/a	2.59	2.65
Teacher Support and Student Engagement Average	n/a	n/a	2.71	2.77

STUDENT ACADEMIC SELF-CONFIDENCE

This subscale is comprised of six items that assess students' motivation, self-efficacy, and acquisition of self-evaluation skills. Averages for each item and for the subscale are in Table 5.

Table 5. Average Response for Academic Self-Confidence Items

	Akins			All HS
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2008-09
20. I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	n/a	3.21	3.20	3.20
22. I feel/felt well prepared for TAKS.	2.86	2.86	2.95	3.10
23. I try hard to do my best work.	3.29	3.22	3.21	3.23
26. I feel successful in my schoolwork.	3.00	3.05	3.04	3.05
29. I can reach the goals I set for myself.	3.23	3.30	3.31	3.24
31. I know how I'm doing in school.	3.15	3.18	3.21	3.24
Academic Self-Confidence Average	n/a	3.17	3.14	3.17

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Five additional items were included on the survey. Four items measured additional components of school climate (Table 6) and the sixth asked students to indicate whether or not they intended to go to college after high school (Table 7).

Table 6. Additional Items

	2006-07	Akins 2007-08	2008-09	All HS 2008-09
8. There is at least one adult at my school who I would go to if I have a problem.	n/a	3.28	3.10	3.11
9. Everyone knows what the school rules are.	2.81	2.96	2.83	2.95
13. My classmates know there are consequences for breaking the rules.	3.17	3.29	3.22	3.25
19. My teachers challenge me to do better.	3.10	3.16	3.10	3.18

Table 7. College intentions, 2008-2009

	Akins			All HS		
	Yes	Maybe	No	Yes	Maybe	No
39. I will go to college after high school.	72%	23%	5%	73%	22%	5%

Reference

Schmitt, L. & Carney, D. (2008). AISD Board Level Reports. Austin, TX: Austin Independent School District. Available at:
<http://www.austinisd.org/inside/accountability/evaluation/reports.phtml>