

Research indicates that school climate can be either a positive influence on the learning environment or a significant barrier to learning. Positive school climate has been associated with fewer behavioral problems for students and increased achievement levels for students (Marshall, n.d.). According to Brian Perkins of the National School Boards Association (2006), research shows that improved school climate contributes

## Behavioral Environment

A total of six items on the survey assess the dimension called Behavioral Environment, the respect and caring among students and the extent to which students obey the school rules and feel safe at school. Results for the individual items composing the subscale are presented below. Item numbers in each table correspond to the numbers on the survey.

Average Response for Behavioral Environment Items

| Behavioral Environment Items                 | Linder<br>2005-06 | Linder<br>2006-07 | Linder<br>2007-08 | All<br>ES |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. My classmates show respect to each other. | 2.40              | 2.95              | <b>3.05</b>       | 2.98      |

## 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 reflected in the table below.

Average Response for Teacher Support and Student Engagement Items

| Engagement | Linder<br>2005-06 | Linder<br>2006-07 | Linder<br>2007-08 | All |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|

## ADDITIONAL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

A total of eight items assess the school environment in ways other than those identified by the four primary statistical survey dimensions. Average scores for each of these additional items are reflected in the table below.

Average Response for Additional Climate Items

| <b>Additional Items</b>  | <b>Linder<br/>2005-06</b> | <b>Linder<br/>2006-07</b> | <b>Linder<br/>2007-08</b> | <b>All<br/>ES</b> |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 8. There is at least one adult at my school who I can go to if I have a problem. | <b>3.40</b>               | <b>3.61</b>               | <b>3.65</b>               | <b>3.60</b>       |
| 9. Everyone knows what the school rules are.                                     | 2.83                      | <b>3.28</b>               | <b>3.32</b>               | <b>3.35</b>       |
| 13. My classmates know there are consequences for breaking the rules.            | n/a                       | <b>3.46</b>               | <b>3.51</b>               | <b>3.56</b>       |

## APPENDIX

### Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Scores for AISD Student Climate Survey

| Reliability Scores     | All ES | All MS | All HS |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Behavioral Environment | .75    | .82    | .82    |