

Coalition of Essential Schools School Autonomy Survey

*****Please note: This document contains survey questions only and is intended as a sample of the survey on-line at essentialanalysis.org*****

CES SCHOOL AUTONOMY SURVEY

This survey asks you to think about the degree that your school has autonomy in decision-making. Autonomy refers to a group's ability to make decisions on their own. No autonomy means that a school, for example, has no say in a decision; full autonomy means that the final decision is made entirely at the school level. Minimal and partial autonomy are points along a continuum defined by these endpoints. The school has some say in the decisions; with minimal autonomy outside groups have more say, with partial autonomy the school has equal or more say.

For the following statements, please note (1) the DESIRED degree of autonomy that you want your school to have in making decisions and (2) the ACTUAL degree of autonomy that your school has in making these decisions.

1: No Autonomy	2: Minimal Autonomy	3: Partial Autonomy	4: Full Autonomy
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Staffing

1. My school can hire staff.
2. My school can fire staff.
3. My school can set staffing patterns.
4. My school can hire staff, regardless of their current status (member of the district or not).

Budget

5. My school receives an annual lump sum per pupil budget in which the school has total discretion to spend.
6. My school's district itemizes all central office costs, and allows my school to choose whether or not to purchase identified discretionary district services. Those services that are not purchased are included in the per pupil lump sum budget.

Curriculum and Assessment

7. My school can determine their curriculum practices.
8. My school can structure their assessment practices. While acknowledging that my school is expected to administer state- and district-required tests, my school is given flexibility to best determine school-based assessment practices.
9. My school can create its own graduation requirements with the exception that (1) the district may set minimal graduation requirements and (2) the state may mandate certain tests.
10. My school can create assessment practices with an emphasis on competency-based, performance assessment rather than seat time.

School Calendar and Schedule

- 11. My school has the flexibility to determine the length of the school day and year including early release, and extended day.
- 12. My school has the flexibility to determine the length of summer professional development time.
- 13. My school is able to build substantial faculty common planning time into the schedule.
- 14. My school can create its own schedule.

Professional Development

- 15. My school can design a coherent and comprehensive professional development plan.
- 16. My school's teachers and leaders can make their own decisions to attend district-wide professional development sessions.

Governance and Policies

- 17. My school can create its own site council which is representative of all stakeholders including teachers, parents, community members, and students.
- 18. My school's site council responsibilities include principal selection, supervision, and removal when necessary with final approval by the superintendent.
- 19. My school's site council responsibilities include budget approval; and setting of the school vision.
- 20. My school's site council responsibilities include setting of the school vision.
- 21. My school sets its own promotion and graduation policies.
- 22. My school sets its own attendance and discipline policies.
- 23. My school involves all school constituencies, including students and parents, in substantive decision making both in the classroom and school-wide.

Contiguous Space Identifiable as "Our School"

- 24. My school has the freedom to determine use of physical space.

To what extent do the following statements apply to your school:

- 1: Not at all**
- 2: Somewhat**
- 3: Mostly**
- 4: Entirely**

- 25. The school has a distinctive set of teachers not shared with others schools.
- 26. The school has a distinctive set of students not shared with others schools.
- 27. My school has its own dedicated principal who is ultimately responsible for the decisions made at the school.

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- 28. My school's per pupil budget is calculated consistent with other schools in the district.
- 29. My school has an identifiable physical space not shared with other schools.

Answer Yes/No for the following statement:

- 30. The school has its own identification number in district and state systems.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!