

## Welcome to the Hope Study!!!

The Hope Study is designed to assist schools in assessing the school culture from the students' viewpoint. The Hope Study can pinpoint strengths as well as areas for improvement, and EdVisions can help design proactive plans to improve school practices and procedures in order to enhance and enrich the school culture and the student experience. In this way, schools can manage school-wide continuous improvement in a way that directly benefits the students.

The surveys measure student perceptions of their ability to make choices related to their education, the quality of their relationships with their teachers and peers, and the nature of the educational environment (for example, do teachers have high expectations for all students, or just the smart ones? Is the emphasis on understanding, or grades?). These factors have all been shown to contribute to adolescent engagement in learning and psychological health (i.e. Hope).

A school can take this survey without external support. However, they may wish for their results to be compiled in a larger study (this does not require any more effort on the schools part) which would provide comparison data for you to understand your own schools' results. If you are interested in taking part in the Hope study, e-mail Ron Newell at [ron@edvisions.coop](mailto:ron@edvisions.coop) with your contact information and the name(s) of your school(s).

In addition, if your school wants support in interpreting the results of this survey, please contact Ron Newell at [ron@edvisions.coop](mailto:ron@edvisions.coop). EdVisions, a CES Center, has been integral in creating these surveys and supporting and training schools in their analysis. While a school can analyze its results using the analysis features on EssentialAnalysis.org, EdVisions does offer external support for a fee and this support can be very useful, especially when first analyzing the results of these surveys. More information about the coaching from EdVisions is below.

### Some hints for taking the survey.

When you are ready to take the surveys we suggest you set aside some time(s) where groups of students would have access to computers for at least 30 minutes. It is not necessary to have the whole body of students done on the same days. Staggering the days and times will be safer for your Internet network. If surveys are completed within a week or two's time, they will still be valid. On the designated day(s), direct your students to the appropriate survey using the Web link. The students will require about 30-40 minutes to complete the surveys. All survey questions are straightforward, and the survey site has all the instructions that the students should need. If students are very young (i.e., age 8 years or less) they may need assistance in reading and interpreting the questions. Otherwise, students can proceed through the surveys at their own pace.

The appropriate survey depends on the time of year and the student's status:

- New students should be surveyed using the "new student" survey as soon as possible after they join your school. For most new students, this will be in the fall of the

- school year; however, since students can enter your school at any point, the “new student” survey is available year-round.
- All students should be surveyed once per year using the “on-going student” survey. This administration of the surveys takes place near the end of the school year (i.e., late April or May). If you have new students, the key date to remember is January 31<sup>st</sup>. If a new student joined the school and took the “new student” survey *before* January 31<sup>st</sup>, he/she should participate in the end-of-year administration with all the other students. However, if the student took the “new student” survey *after* January 31<sup>st</sup>, he/she should *not* participate again that same year; that student should wait until the following April/May before taking the surveys again.
  - There are also short surveys for the teachers or advisors (if your school uses advisories). These are not expected to require any more than 15-20 minutes.

A couple of hints to make the process of taking the surveys as smooth as possible:

- There is no time limit to the surveys, although it is expected that they will not require more than 30 or 40 minutes. More time is certainly allowed if needed, but this is generally not the case. Please ensure that the students take their time and think carefully about each item.
- The students should not be able to view each other’s surveys and should not discuss their responses with each other.
- The goal of the administration should be for the students to have as much privacy as possible so they can be as honest as possible. If you think it will help, you can emphasize several times that student names will not be shared with anyone inside or outside of the school. The demographic information and survey results are stored separately but can be combined by a unique non-name identifier.

### **Coaching support from EdVisions**

If you have requested support from EdVisions, once the students have completed the data entry, you will be contacted within a few weeks by a representative from EdVisions, who will share your results with you. Ideally, the results will reveal what the students feel are the strengths of your educational environment and will also suggest areas for improvement.

Members of EdVisions can meet with you and/or your staff to discuss avenues of change and how they could enhance and enrich the student experience at your school(s). To measure the effect of these changes over time, we can compare student scores year-over-year.

If you would like us to incorporate standardized test scores in this process, EdVisions can accept that data and include it in the analysis. That way, you can measure how student scores change over time, in parallel with changes in the other variables.