

Beginning High School Survey

We would like to know your thoughts about ninth grade.

This is a questionnaire, not a test. There are no right or wrong answers.

This survey is voluntary. We hope that you will complete the survey and answer all of the questions, but you can skip any questions that you do not want to answer.

All of your answers will be kept as confidential as possible. No one will be told how you answered any of the questions. Your responses will be combined with those of the other students in your school to help us describe students' experiences in ninth grade.

By completing and returning this survey you agree to participate in the research study. If you have any comments or concerns about this study, please contact Deborah Van Kummer or at (512) 391-6551. You can find out more information about the study and the organization conducting it, REL Southwest, at: relsouthwest.sedl.org.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1850-xxxx. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes/hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is voluntary. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, application or survey, please contact (Chris Boccanfuso at Chris.Boccanfuso@ed.gov directly. [Note: Please do not return the completed instrument, form, application or survey to this address.]

Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Title I, Part E, Section 183, prohibits disclosure of individually identifiable information as well as making the publishing or communicating of individually identifiable information by employees or staff a felony. Per the policies and procedures required by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Title I, Part E, Section 183, responses to this data collection will be used only for statistical purposes. The reports prepared for this study will summarize findings across the sample and will not associate responses with a specific school, district, or individual. Any willful disclosure of such information for nonstatistical purposes, except as required by law, is a class E felony.

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| Thank you for completing this survey!

Instructions: Please read each of the questions carefully and select the response that is most true for you. Please fill in the circles completely.

A: Your School

A1. How much do you agree with the following statements? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I feel like a real part of my school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| People at my school notice when I'm good at something. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other students in my school take my ideas seriously. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| People at this school are friendly to me. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I'm included in lots of activities at school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I worry about crime and violence in school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Students at this school are often teased or picked on. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Students at this school are often threatened or bullied. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I sometimes stay home because I don't feel safe at school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

B: Your Schoolwork

B1. How often do you: (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Never | Once in a while | About half the time | Usually | Always |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Participate in class discussions? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Participate in group work inside or outside of class time? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Raise your hand in class to ask questions? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Complete your homework? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

B2. How much do you agree with the following statements? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I always study for tests. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I set aside time to do my homework or study. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I try to do well on my schoolwork even when it's boring. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I don't go out with my friends if I need to study. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I keep track of my assignments so I know when to turn them in. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I manage my time well enough to get all my work done. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I set goals for my performance in my classes. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I have a method for organizing my school work. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I stop to make sure I understand what I'm doing when I do my school work. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I put what I am studying into my own words to help me understand it. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I review my notes carefully to make sure that I understand them. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I quiz myself on the material to prepare for a test | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| When I finish an assignment, I check my work before I turn it in. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

B3. About how much time per week do you spend studying or doing homework for ALL of your classes? (Fill in one circle)

| Hours per week | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| None | <input type="radio"/> |
| 1-2 | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3-5 | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6-9 | <input type="radio"/> |
| 10-14 | <input type="radio"/> |
| 15 or more | <input type="radio"/> |

B4. Please indicate how much each of the following statements describes you. (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Not at all like me | Not much like me | Somewhat like me | Mostly like me | Very much like me |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| New ideas and projects sometimes distract me from completing current work. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Delays and obstacles don't discourage me. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I often focus on a certain idea or project for a short time but later lose interest. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am a hard worker. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I often set a goal but later follow a different one. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I have difficulty keeping my focus on projects that take more than a few days to complete. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I finish whatever I begin. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am a careful worker. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

B5. Thinking about your classes this year, to what extent do you agree with each of the following statements? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I'm certain I can master the skills taught in my classes this year. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I'm certain I can figure out how to do even the most difficult classwork. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I can do almost all the work in my classes if I don't give up. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Even if the work in my classes is hard, I can learn it. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I can do even the hardest work in class if I try. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I do badly in school whether or not I study. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

B6. Indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I am good at math. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I will get better at math if I work at it. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| You have to be born with the ability to be good at math. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am good at reading and writing. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I will get better at writing if I work at it. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| You have to be born with the ability to be good at reading and writing. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am good at science. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I will get better at science if I work at it. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| You have to be born with the ability to be good at science. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

C: Your 9th Grade School Year

C1. Since the beginning of this school year, how difficult has it been for you to do the following things? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Not at all difficult | Somewhat difficult | Difficult |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Figure out what classes to take | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Complete your school work | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Make friends | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fit in with other students | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Participate in school activities (clubs or sports) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Get along with your teachers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

C2. Which of the following people have you talked to about which courses to take THIS YEAR?

(Mark all that apply)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Parents/guardian | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other family members | <input type="radio"/> |
| School counselor | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teachers | <input type="radio"/> |
| Friends | <input type="radio"/> |
| I haven't talked to anyone about this | <input type="radio"/> |

C3. Which of the following people have you talked to about which courses you need to graduate from high school?

(Mark all that apply)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Parents/guardian | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other family members | <input type="radio"/> |
| School counselor | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teachers | <input type="radio"/> |
| Friends | <input type="radio"/> |
| I haven't talked to anyone about this | <input type="radio"/> |

C: Your 8th Grade School Year

C4. Last year, how many times did the following things happen to you since the beginning of the year?

(Fill in one circle on each row)

| | None | 1-2 times | 3-6 times | 7-9 times | 10 or more times |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I was late for school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I cut or skipped classes. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I was absent from school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I got in trouble for not following school rules. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I was put on in-school suspension. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I was suspended or put on probation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I was transferred to another school for disciplinary reasons. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

E: Your Teachers

E1. How much do you agree with the following statements? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I get along well with most of my teachers. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Most of my teachers are interested in how I'm doing. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Most of my teachers really listen to what I have to say. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| If I need extra help, I will receive it from my teachers. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Most of my teachers treat me fairly. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teachers make sure that all students are planning for life after high school graduation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teachers work hard to make sure that all students are learning. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teachers see high school as preparation for the future. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| All students are encouraged to go to college. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teachers pay attention to all students, not just the smart ones. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teachers work hard to make sure that students stay in school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

F: Your Peers

F1. How much do you agree with the following statements? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| My friends try hard in school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My friends and I talk about what we did in class. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My friends and I help each other prepare for tests. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My friends think that it is important to do well in school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My friends and I help each other with homework assignments. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My friends think it is important to attend every class. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

F2. How much do you agree with the following statements? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I feel like I don't fit in with other students in my school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel like students in my school are unfriendly. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel ignored by students in my school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel like students in my school disrespect me. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel bullied by students in my school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

G: Your Parents

G1. Since the beginning of the school year, how often have you discussed the following with either or both of your parents or guardians? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Selecting courses or programs at school. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| School activities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Things you've studied in class. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Your grades. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Your homework | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Plans and preparations for ACT or SAT tests | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Going to college. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

H: Your Future

H1. How much do you agree with the following statements? (Fill in one circle on each row)

| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Grades in high school matter for success in college. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My classes give me useful preparation for what I plan to do in life. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| High school teaches me valuable skills. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Working hard in high school matters for success in the workforce. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| What we learn in class is necessary for success in the future. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

H2. How sure are you that you will graduate from high school?

(Fill in one circle)

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Very sure you will graduate | <input type="radio"/> |
| You will probably graduate | <input type="radio"/> |
| You probably will not graduate | <input type="radio"/> |
| Very sure you will not graduate | <input type="radio"/> |

H3. What do you plan to do following high school graduation?

(Fill in one circle)

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Continue my education at a 2-year college or vocational school | <input type="radio"/> |
| Continue my education at a 4-year college | <input type="radio"/> |
| Work full-time | <input type="radio"/> |
| Join the military | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other | <input type="radio"/> |

H4. What is the highest level of education you plan to complete?

(Fill in one circle)

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Not planning to complete high school | <input type="radio"/> |
| GED | <input type="radio"/> |
| High school | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2-year community or career/technical school | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4-year college or university | <input type="radio"/> |
| Master's degree | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ph.D, M.D., law degree or other high level professional degree | <input type="radio"/> |
| I haven't decided yet | <input type="radio"/> |