Safe and Supportive Schools: Connectedness

In a school community, both the adults and children can perform at their best only when they communicate well and feel connected to one another. Everyone needs to feel safe, nurtured, and supported - or teaching and learning are compromised.

**Social and Emotional Connectedness of the School Community**

- **Connectedness among professional colleagues, teachers, and administrators**

  - **Teacher Responses**
    - Percent who report they agree or strongly agree that:
      - My job lets me use my skills and knowledge.
      - I help decide how school policies ought to be changed.
      - Teachers on my team or grade level respect each other's ideas and opinions.
      - Co-worker stimulation and support
      - Opportunities to accomplish something worthwhile
      - There is a group spirit among the staff.

  - **Teacher Responses**
    - Percent who report they are satisfied or very satisfied with:
      - My job lets me use my skills and knowledge.
      - I help decide how school policies ought to be changed.
      - Teachers on my team or grade level respect each other's ideas and opinions.
      - Co-worker stimulation and support
      - Opportunities to accomplish something worthwhile
      - There is a group spirit among the staff.

- **Connectedness between students and teachers**

  - **Teacher Responses**
    - Percent who report that they agree or strongly agree that members of their team or grade level:
      - Interact with children in ways that show interest and respect
      - Use positive approaches to help children behave constructively

  - **Teacher Responses**
    - Percent who report they serve as an advisor in the school's advisory program

- **Connectedness throughout the school community as a whole**

  - **Parent Responses**
    - Percent who agree or strongly agree that:
      - The school views parents as important partners.

  - **Student Responses**
    - Percent who report that the school does well at:
      - They have a sense (feeling) of belonging in this school.

  - **Teacher Responses**
    - Percent who agree or strongly agree that:
      - It is essential for schools to provide instruction on conflict or violence reduction.