Safe and Supportive Schools: Connectedness

Social and Emotional Connectedness of the School Community

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.

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**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.
  - Percent who report that most of the time or always:
    - Co-worker stimulation and support
    - Opportunities to accomplish something worthwhile
    - There is a group spirit among the staff.

**Student Responses**

- Percent who report that most of the time or always:
  - Teachers take a personal interest in students.
  - Interact with children in ways that show interest and respect
  - Use positive approaches to help children behave constructively

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**Connectedness between students and teachers**

- **Teacher Responses**
  - Percent who report that they agree or strongly agree that members of their team or grade level:
  - Teachers on my team or grade level respect each other's ideas and opinions.
  - Co-worker stimulation and support
  - Opportunities to accomplish something worthwhile

**Student Responses**

- Percent who report that most of the time or always:
  - Teachers take a personal interest in students.
  - Get individual help and advising from teachers.
  - They have a sense (feeling) of belonging in this school.

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

- **Parent Responses**
  - Percent who agree or strongly agree that:
    - The school views parents as important partners.
    - Including parents on school committees such as curriculum, budget and school improvement

- **Student Responses**
  - Percent who report that most of the time or always:
    - Students in this school have trouble getting along with each other.

- **Teacher Responses**
  - Percent who agree or strongly agree that:
    - It is essential for schools to provide instruction on conflict or violence reduction.
    - Students in my class disrupt what others are doing.
    - Students in my class enjoy working together.