

San Francisco Unified School District School Climate Survey Report 2008: MS District Report

In the fall semester of the 2007-2008 school year, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) commissioned the most comprehensive survey of school climate and school safety ever conducted in the district's history. The goal of the *SFUSD School Climate Survey* (SCS) was to collect meaningful information from students and staff about their perspectives on school climate and school safety.

Across all high schools, over 360 teachers and their principals supported the administration of SFUSD SCS to nearly 8,000 students!

This report summarizes overall SFUSD results and, when possible, includes comparisons to statewide results.

In contrast to previous surveys conducted in the district, where randomized sampling procedures have been used to generate representative results at the district-level, the SFUSD SCS was administered to *all* students in *all* elementary, middle, and high schools. This method was chosen to ensure that results would be representative of each school's entire student population, depending on final return rates.

Ultimately, survey return rates determine the strength of population representation. That is, the higher the proportion of the student population that completes the survey, the more confidence we can have that the results accurately reflect the perspectives and opinions of *all* students at the school.

A return rate over 60% is a minimum requirement for population representation. Return rates between 70% and 80% are considered quite strong, and return rates over 80% are considered to be excellent (see Table 1 for the middle school-level return rate).

Table 1: Survey Completion, School Enrollment, & Return Rate

	Enrollment	Surveys Completed	Return Rate
	#	#	%
School / SFUSD SFUSD (MS)	10197	7850	77

Section One - Required Performance Indicators (School Safety)

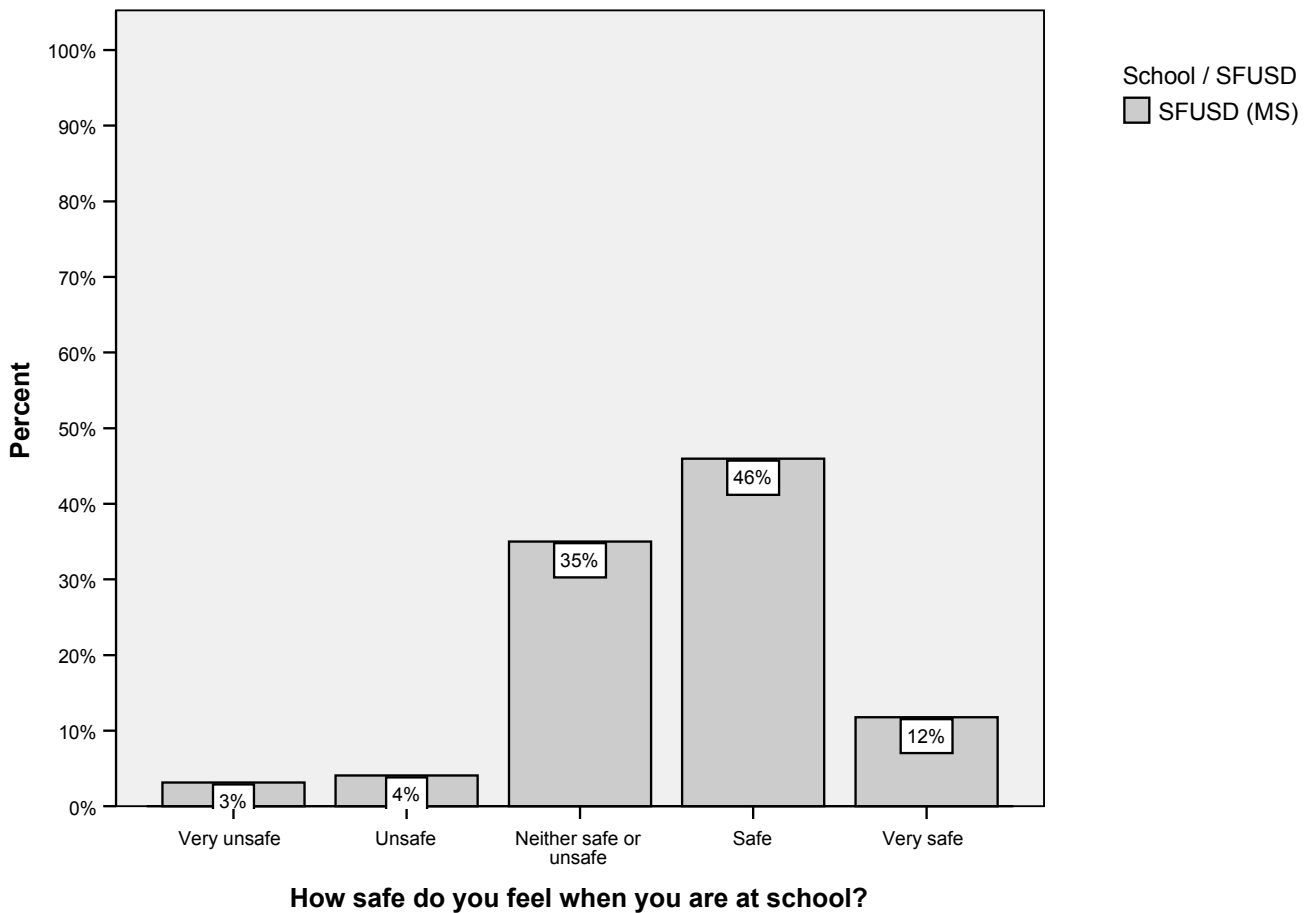
The first section provides your school's results on two performance indicators required by the California Department of Education (CDE) (Charts 1 & 2). The CDE requires SFUSD to develop and implement safety plans that address these outcomes. Each school is also required to address these outcomes in the site planning process.

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Chart 1 shows the distribution of student responses to the question “How safe do you feel when you are at school? The California Department of Education has identified the percentage of students who reply “very safe” as a required performance indicator for Local Education Agency plans.

Chart 1: How safe do you feel when you are at school? (CDE Performance Indicator = % Very Safe)*

*SDFSCA/TUPE performance indicator required by CDE for Local Education Agency Plans



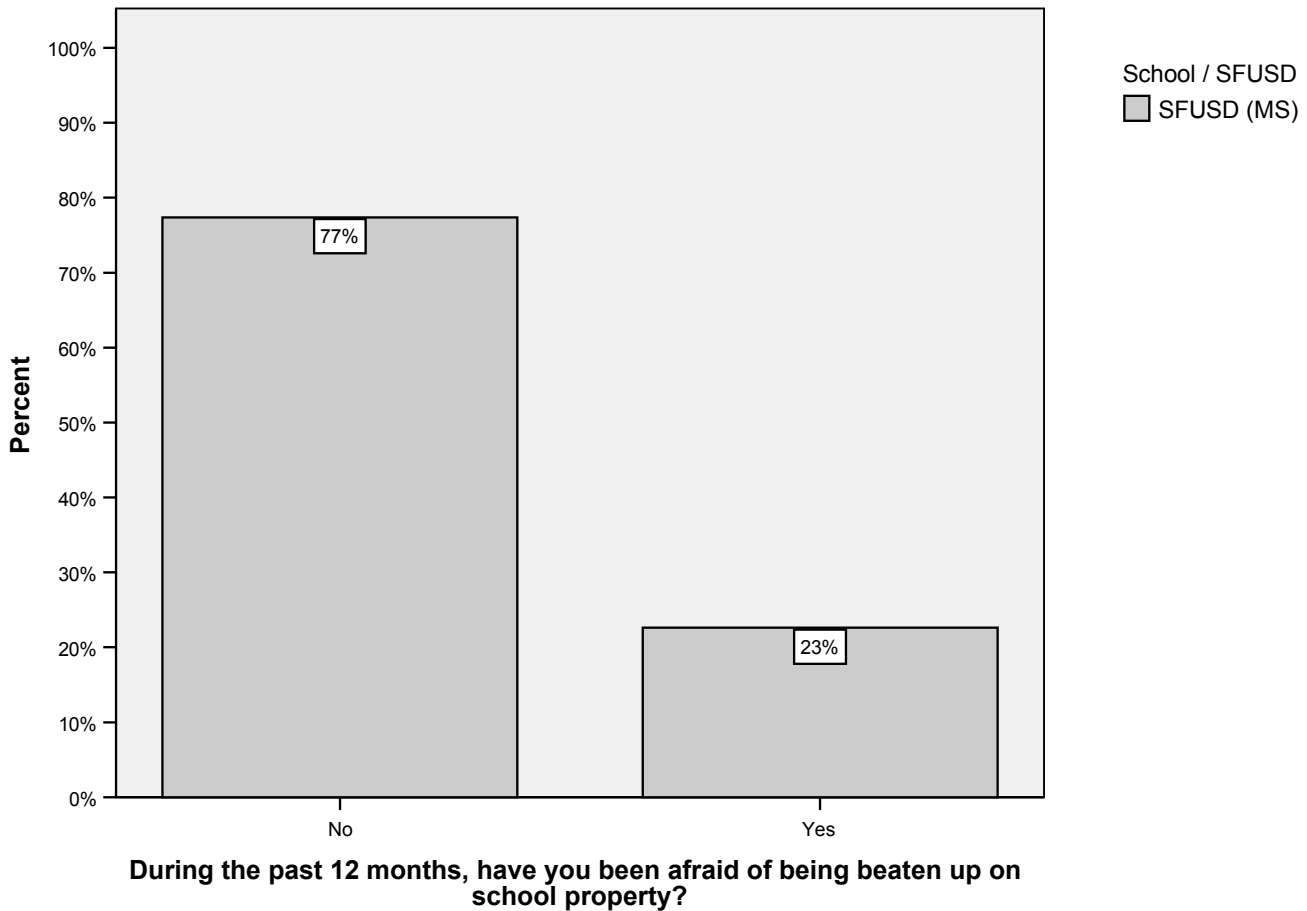
The most recent statewide results, which included data from over 250,00 7th grade students, showed that 20% reported feeling “very safe” at their school (WestEd, 2006).

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Chart 2 shows the percentage of students at your school who reported they had “been afraid of being beaten up at school” in the past twelve months. The percentage of students who report “yes” is also a CDE performance indicator.

Chart 2: Have you ever been afraid of being beaten up at school in the past 12 months (CDE Performance Indicator = % Yes)*

*SDFSCA/TUPE performance indicator required by CDE for Local Education Agency Plans



Statewide results showed that 28% of 7th grade students reported being afraid of physical violence at their school.

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Section Two - Violence & Weapons at School

This section includes students's reports on several indicators of violence exposure at school (Table 2), weapons carrying (Table 3), and gang membership (Table 4). Results show that significant numbers of students have been exposed to violence at school.

Table 2: Violence at School - During the past 12 months at school, have you...

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
been in a physical fight	Yes	1749	23%
	No	5975	77%
been threatened or injured with a weapon	Yes	620	8%
	No	7118	92%
had your property stolen or deliberately damaged	Yes	2609	34%
	No	5157	66%

Table 3: Weapons at School - During the past 12 months at school, have you...

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
have you carried a gun	Yes	252	3%
	No	7499	97%
carried any other weapon	Yes	522	7%
	No	7227	93%
seen someone carrying a weapon	Yes	2334	30%
	No	5397	70%

According to these results, at least 252 firearms were carried into SFUSD high schools in the past year. The actual number of gun carrying incidents in schools may be larger, as most of the students who report carrying a gun to school report carrying a gun four or more times in the previous year.

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Table 4: Do you consider yourself a member of a gang?

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		N	%
Do you consider yourself a member of a gang?	No	7279	94%
	Yes	455	6%

Section Three - Harrassment & Bullying Results

Tables 5a and 5b show student reports of harassment or bullying and the perceived reasons for their harassment or bullying. Note that harassment or bullying for reasons of “race, ethnicity, or national origin” was the most common form reported. Another common response was “any other reason”, suggesting that other types of harassment or bullying are occurring.

Table 5a: During the past 12 months, were you harassed or bullied at school?

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
0 times		4666	60%
1 to 7 times		3104	40%

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Table 5b: During the past year, have you been harassed or bullied at school for any of the following reasons?

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
Your race, ethnicity, or national origin	Yes	1635	21%
	No	6098	79%
Your religion	Yes	645	8%
	No	7086	92%
Your gender (being male or female)	Yes	701	9%
	No	7004	91%
Gay or lesbian*	Yes	661	9%
	No	7045	91%
Transgender*	Yes	293	4%
	No	7406	96%
A physical or mental disability	Yes	361	5%
	No	7344	95%
Any other reason	Yes	1784	23%
	No	5900	77%

*Because you are gay or lesbian or someone thought you were.

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Students were asked about their perceptions of the level of protection staff provide from violence, harassment, and bullying at school. Results show that about half of students believe that teachers and staff keep them safe from exposure (Table 6).

Table 6: Perceived Protection - Teachers and staff keep me safe from...

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
...physical violence in the classroom	Yes	4478	58%
	No	3238	42%
...physical violence in the hallway	Yes	3870	50%
	No	3823	50%
...verbal harassment	Yes	3116	41%
	No	4574	59%
...bullying	Yes	3568	46%
	No	4110	54%

Item: Teachers and staff keep me safe from... (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree). "Yes" = Strongly Agree & Agree. "No" = all other responses.

Table 7 includes the number and proportion of students who reported that they didn't go to school on at least one occasion in the past thirty days because they either "felt they would be unsafe at school" or "felt they would be unsafe on the way to or from school".

Table 7: During the past 30 days, have you decided not to go to school because you thought you would be...

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		N	%
...unsafe at school?	No	7155	92%
	Yes	630	8%
...unsafe on your way to or from school?	No	7286	93%
	Yes	517	7%

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Table 8 shows data on two aspects of school climate at it relates to gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth. First, students were asked how often they heard other students using derogatory language about sexual orientation. Second, students were asked how often they heard teachers and staff intervene when students are using derogatory language based on sexual orientation. Results show that a majority of students hear these remarks often, and many students do not hear teachers and staff intervening when this language is used.

Table 8: During the past twelve months, how many times have you (1) heard other students making harassing statements based on sexual orientation*, and (2) how many times have you heard teachers/staff stop others from making harassing statements?

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
Heard other students...	0 times	1258	16%
	1 to 11 times	2588	33%
	12 or more times	3934	51%
Heard teachers/staff stop others...	0 times	3406	44%
	1 to 11 times	3315	43%
	12 or more times	1047	13%

Such as 'fag,' 'dyke,' or 'that's so gay.'

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Section Four - School Environment Assets Results

Tables 9 through 12 show the results of the School Environment Assets scales developed by WestEd as part of the CDE’s California Healthy Kids Survey. School environment assets are characteristics and qualities of your school across three measurement domains (1) caring relationships with adults at school, (2) meaningful participation in the school community, (3) high expectations from adults at school. Several questions on the survey were combined according to WestEd analysis protocols to produce data that are comparable at the school, district, and state levels.

Statewide Results - Caring Relationships: Adult in School. The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 33% “high”, 51% “moderate”, and 16% “low” (WestEd, 2006).

Table 9: School Environment Assets: Caring Relationship with Adult at School

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
Caring Relationships	Low	1259	17%
	Moderate	4467	59%
	High	1812	24%

**Based on WestEd and CDE’s California Healthy Kids Survey Items. Used with Permission.*

Statewide Results - High Expectations: Adult in School. The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 48% “high”, 42% “moderate”, and 10% “low”.

Table 10: School Environment Assets: High Expectations

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
High Expectations	Low	646	9%
	Moderate	3605	48%
	High	3321	44%

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Statewide Results - Meaningful Participation. The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 16% “high”, 52% “moderate”, and 32% “low”.

Table 11: School Environment Assets: Meaningful Participation

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
Meaningful Participation	Low	2683	35%
	Moderate	3985	52%
	High	961	13%

**Based on WestEd and CDE's California Healthy Kids Survey Items. Used with Permission.*

Statewide Results - Total School Environment Assets. The most recent statewide results for this indicator were 33% “high”, 50% “moderate”, and 17% “low”.

Table 12: School Environment Assets: Total School Assets

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		#	%
Total School Assets	Low	1325	18%
	Moderate	4088	55%
	High	1976	27%

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Section Five - Characteristics of Surveyed Students

The final section provides information on the characteristics of the students who completed a survey at your school and for the overall SFUSD sample. Results are provided for student gender (Table 13), age (Table 14), race/ethnicity (Table 15), and sexual orientation (Table 16). Depending on your school's return rate (Table 1), the following results should accurately reflect the characteristics of your school's student population.

Table 13: Gender of Surveyed Students

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		N	Percent
What is your gender?	Male	3800	49%
	Female	3925	50%
	Transgender	90	1%

Table 14: Age of Surveyed Students.

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		N	%
How old are you?	11 years old	1309	17%
	12 years old	2891	37%
	13 years old	3102	40%
	14 years old or older	527	7%

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Table 15: Race/Ethnicity of Surveyed Students.

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		N	%
How do you describe yourself? (Race/Ethnicity)	American Indian or Alaska Native	47	1%
	Black/African American	555	7%
	Caucasian/White	609	8%
	Chinese	3113	40%
	Filipino	366	5%
	Latino/Hispanic	1461	19%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	93	1%
	Other Asian	514	7%
	Multiracial	1034	13%

Table 16: Sexual Orientation of Surveyed Students.

		School / SFUSD	
		SFUSD (MS)	
		N	%
Which of the following best describes you?	Heterosexual (straight)	6648	87%
	Gay or Lesbian	58	1%
	Bisexual	100	1%
	Not Sure	822	11%