



MI StudentSM
VOICE

Raising voices to drive school quality

2023 Student Perception Survey ANNUAL REPORT



The MI Student Voice Perception Survey was developed by Michigan Superintendents in 2019 to address the need for a common measure to provide a holistic picture of student experience.

Following a pilot test, early support quickly expanded administration to 20 districts in 2022 as part of a growing statewide consortium.

In the spring of 2023, 58 districts across the state of Michigan administered the MI Student Voice Perception Survey in their schools - nearly tripling participation in one year and capturing critical information from 33,366 total students.

The survey is now playing a transformative role in how education leaders approach district and school improvement planning by prioritizing the voice of students.



Student Perception Survey

Raising voices to drive school quality

PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS 2023



Allegan Area ESA

Martin Public Schools

Berrien RESA

Berrien Springs Public Schools
Buchanan Community Schools
Coloma Community Schools
Countryside Academy
Eau Claire Public Schools
Watervliet Public Schools

Eaton RESA

Maple Valley Schools

Genesee ISD

Beecher Community School District
Flint Cultural Center Academy
Grand Blanc Community Schools
International Academy of Flint
Madison Academy
The New Standard Academy

Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD

Ingham ISD

Dansville Schools
East Lansing Public Schools
Mason Public Schools

Kent ISD

Caledonia Community Schools
Comstock Park Public Schools
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools
Godwin Heights Public Schools
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Grandville Public Schools
Kelloggsville Public Schools
Kenowa Hills Public Schools
Kent City Community Schools
Kentwood Public Schools
Northview Public Schools
Rockford Public Schools
Sparta Area Schools
Thornapple Kellogg Schools
Wyoming Public Schools

Macomb ISD

South Lake Schools

Oakland Schools

Avondale School District

Van Buren ISD

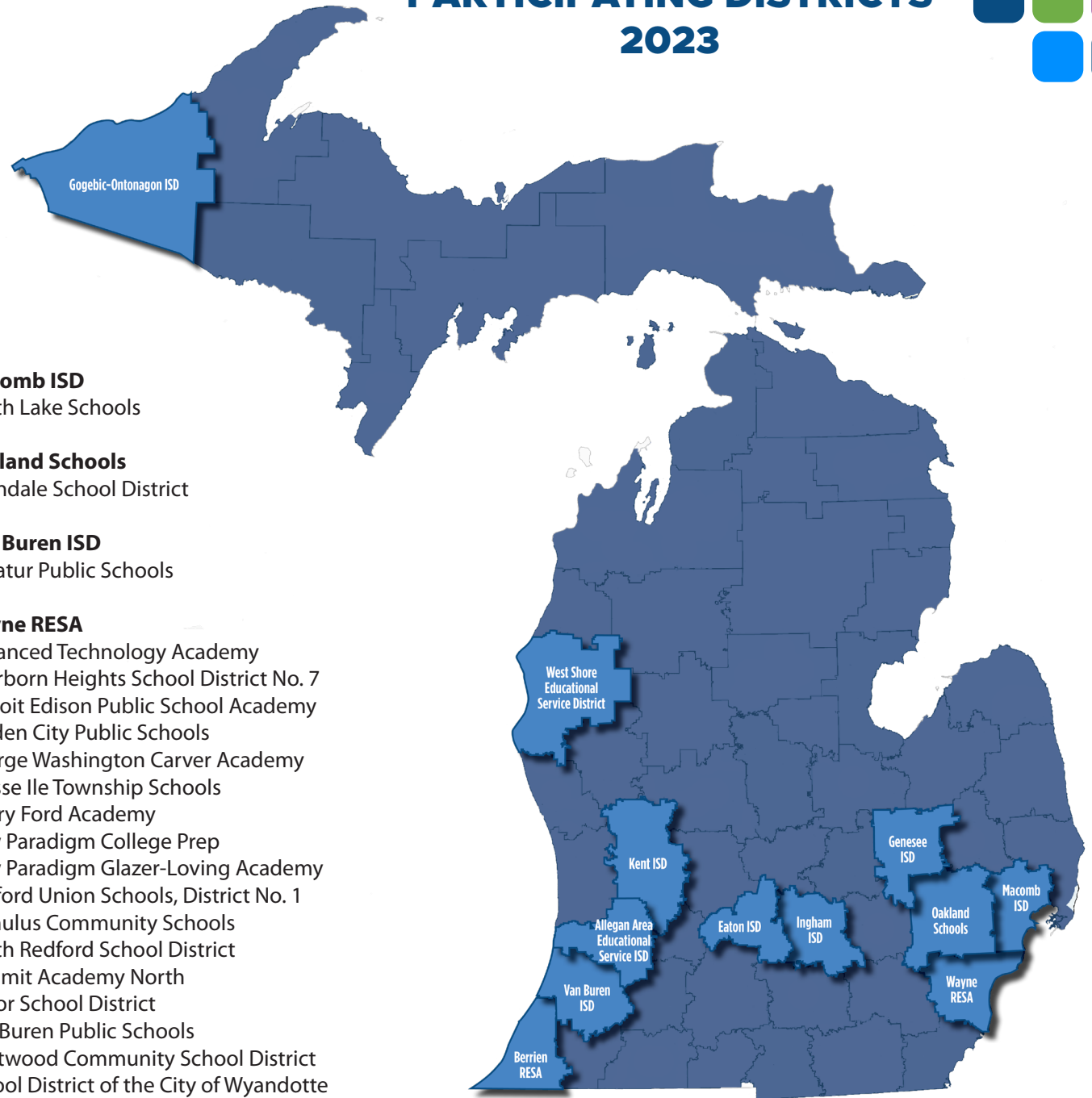
Decatur Public Schools

Wayne RESA

Advanced Technology Academy
Dearborn Heights School District No. 7
Detroit Edison Public School Academy
Garden City Public Schools
George Washington Carver Academy
Grosse Ile Township Schools
Henry Ford Academy
New Paradigm College Prep
New Paradigm Glazer-Loving Academy
Redford Union Schools, District No. 1
Romulus Community Schools
South Redford School District
Summit Academy North
Taylor School District
Van Buren Public Schools
Westwood Community School District
School District of the City of Wyandotte

West Shore Educational Service District

Walkerville Public Schools
West Shore Educational Service District - CTE



MAKING THE RESULTS ACTIONABLE



Currently, some school districts are using survey results with other systems that are already available, such as MICIP, to create their data stories and show how they utilize the data for school improvement. This fall, Kent ISD will host a dynamic training session on using the data to integrate student voice into continuous improvement planning. This dynamic session will focus on:

- Analyzing the MI Student Voice Perception Survey data
- Identifying patterns and trends in the data
- Using insights to make informed decisions that promote continuous improvement
- Developing an action plan that addresses survey concerns and meets the needs of the students



"The MI Student Voice Perception Survey is playing a transformative role in how we approach our district and school improvement planning by prioritizing the voice of our students. Not only did we administer the survey, but we then used the data along with the experts from the ISD to conduct student focus groups to further validate and understand the findings. As a result, the students are seeing first-hand that their voice is driving action."

Gerald Hopkins, Superintendent,
Kenowa Hills Public Schools



2023 KEY DATA TAKEAWAYS

Statewide aggregate data provides the opportunity for individual districts to see where they fall compared to the state as a whole. Key takeaways from the statewide data demonstrate that there is indeed work to be done:

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Student Engagement is higher in elementary grades than in middle or high school. Further research suggests that Classroom Climate seems to be the issue.
- Growth Mindset is notably higher in elementary grades compared to high school grades. It is also significantly lower in students who identify as non-binary and those who prefer to self-describe their gender identity.

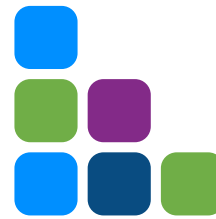
BELONGING

- On average, students in elementary grades have a higher sense of Belonging than students in high school. Additional analysis shows that students struggle with Relationships and Cultural Awareness.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

- About 1 in 5 students have low SEL skills.
- Analysis shows that gaps exist in SEL primarily due to Relationships and Responsible Decision-Making.
 - * On average, White students have higher SEL scores than Black or African American students or Hispanic students.
 - * Non-binary students and students that prefer to self-describe their gender identity have lower SEL scores than female or male students.

ADMINISTERING THE SURVEY



- The MI Student Voice Perception Survey is designed for students in grades 5-12. It consists of under 40 questions and takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Questions fall within three critical domains: Student Engagement, Belonging and Social Emotional Learning (SEL).
- Applying best practices in survey methodology, prompts are expressed as questions. Additionally, responses are collected using a five-point Likert scale for frequency and perception.
- Each participating district has the opportunity to customize their survey by selecting which of the three domains they wish to include and which grade levels to administer to.
- Additionally, districts can choose which gender identity categories to include or to skip the gender identity category altogether.
- Districts receive a toolkit with templated materials designed to make implementation of the survey as seamless as possible. These included suggested communications to principals, teachers, parents and students.
- Students can take the survey on a computer, tablet or mobile device by accessing a custom online weblink; all responses are anonymous.
- Reports are distributed to all participating districts, which include building, district and state aggregate data for comparison purposes. All participating districts have the opportunity to attend a virtual session to learn how to interpret the data and aggregate data from across the state for comparison purposes.



"I fundamentally believe that we will not be able to build the schools that are really catering to our students' needs until we build systems to listen to them. I believe that it's critical to have a qualitative quantitative metric that can tell you whether or not you are accomplishing your goals, and this survey uniquely positions districts to do that."

Dr. Tammy Campbell,
CEO, The Scholar First




WHY STUDENT VOICE MATTERS



In Michigan, there is currently no uniform measurement of students' wellbeing nor a common way to evaluate student engagement and the impact of related social emotional learning opportunities for students beyond standardized test scores. The research, however, is crystal clear about the significant role that student engagement and student belonging play in student success. **Engaged students are 2.5 times more likely to say they do well in school and 4.5 times more likely to be hopeful about the future.** ¹

The MI Student Voice Perception Survey was developed in response to this void and is designed to measure student perceptions across Student Engagement, Belonging and Social-Emotional Learning with the goal of enabling schools to identify, develop and implement effective strategies and interventions. Data from this survey helps to open the door for reexamination of school quality beyond the limited picture of test scores.

¹ Jackson, C.K. et al. Linking social-emotional learning to long-term success. Education Next.



"If you want a successful culture, a successful environment and a successful school district with successful test scores and successful involvement and engagement, then you need to sit down with your students and you need to hear them. Because nobody knows what it feels like to be a student other than students."

Malea V, Student, Cedar Springs High School

WEBSITE

We are excited to share our new website – www.MIStudentVoice.org – as a landing place for all things MI Student Voice. In addition to information about the Student Perception survey, you will find updates, curated articles, testimonials, resources and more.



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Student Engagement | Belonging | Social-Emotional Learning



Why Student Voice



Testimonials



Join Us

ON THE ROAD



"If every student has a sense of wellbeing, if they feel as though they belong in the classroom and they're engaged in their instruction, that's a remarkable measure of school success. Those are the things that live beyond any test. Those are the things that make a community of learning and foster opportunities for students to thrive. We can't be student-centric without reaching out to students and asking them, 'What's important to you and how best do you learn?'"

Ron Koehler, Superintendent, Kent ISD

Since the start of the 2022-2023 school year, MI Student Voice has taken the show on the road – literally and virtually – to build interest in the survey, answer questions, and encourage participation. This has included conference presentations, district visits and even Zoom meetings. Interest has piqued following the successful spring administration of the survey, indicating the potential for a significantly larger number of participating districts this year.



PUBLIC OPINION AFFIRMS NEED FOR ASSESSMENT ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



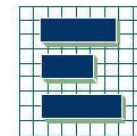
"The survey allows students to get their opinions in on education and how they're feeling. Standardized testing is great for education, but the mental aspect and how people actual feel is also just as important. I think the survey is important because it shows students and where they're at on a deeper level than just testing."

Micah N, Student, Caledonia High School

In Summer 2023, a public opinion poll was commissioned with EPIC-MRA to better understand public sentiment around engagement. EPIC-MRA administered live telephone interviews with 600 active and likely voters. The results loudly validate the importance of our work in student voice and engagement. We will be using this data to inform our messaging and advocacy with scholars, parents, educators, policy makers and the general public.

Notable highlights:

- 79% of respondents believe that students' performance should be graded on much more than just standardized test scores.
- 60% of respondents believe student engagement is more important than standardized tests when it comes to measuring classroom performance and understanding whether students are learning the material they are being taught.
- 75% of respondents think it is important for their local public school district to join with other Michigan public school districts in adopting policies that have proven to increase the level of student engagement both in Michigan and nationwide.



EPIC - MRA
Measuring public opinion since 1985

NEW: SUITE OF SURVEYS



This year also saw the development of two new surveys under the MI Student Voice umbrella. Both the Parent Perspective Survey and Educator Perspective Survey will be available for pilot testing in Spring 2024. The addition of these surveys provides districts with the opportunity to triangulate the data across three key stakeholder groups – students, parents, educators – for a more holistic approach to improve measures of school quality in their school improvement plans.

As with the Student Perception Survey, templated communication materials will be developed to help streamline administration of the surveys, which will take place during the same administration windows.

Administration of the Parent and Educator Perception Surveys is not required for participation in the Student Perception Survey.



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OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

A Steering Committee was formed in early 2023, comprised of superintendent and educators from across the state, to support and help guide the advancement of this critical work. We are grateful for their commitment to uplifting student voice in pursuit of the best possible education experience and outcomes for all students.



Daveda Colbert, PhD
Superintendent, Wayne RESA



Wanda Cook-Robinson, PhD
Superintendent, Oakland Schools



Diane Golzynski, PhD
Interim Deputy Superintendent Finance and Operations, Michigan Department of Education



Ron Gorman, PhD
Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, Kent ISD



Eric Hoppstock
Superintendent, Berrien ISD



Ron Koehler
Superintendent, Kent ISD



Randy Lindquist
Superintendent, Muskegon Area ISD



Kyle Mayer, PhD
Superintendent, Ottawa Area ISD



Jason Mellema
Superintendent, Ingham ISD



John Severson, PhD
Executive Director, Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators



Peter Spadafore
Executive Director, Michigan Alliance for Student Opportunity



Alan Tulppo
Superintendent, Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD



Steve Tunnicliff, PhD
Superintendent, Genesee ISD



Sean Williams, PhD
Superintendent, Eaton RESA



THANK YOU



Thank you for recognizing the importance of elevating student voice. In order to create a supportive school culture that promotes academic success and overall well-being, we believe it is crucial that students are engaged, feel a sense of belonging in school, and have their social-emotional needs met. There is much work to do, but we have the collective energy to do it. Join us in continuing to uplift student voice, helping to create the best possible education experience for all students across the state of Michigan.

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Michigan Health Endowment Fund

MICHIGAN HEALTH
ENDOWMENT FUND



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Learn more, sign up!



www.MIStudentVoice.org

