



**MI Student
VOICE**

Raising voices to drive school quality

Student Perception Survey

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Created in 2019 by a group of Michigan superintendents, the MI Student Voice Perception Survey was developed to provide a common measure that reflects a more complete picture of the student experience, beyond the limited picture of standardized test scores. Since then, participation has expanded rapidly, and the survey is now playing a transformative role in shaping district and school improvement planning across the state – helping to ensure the voices of students are at the center of Michigan’s educational future.

MI Student Voice has evolved into a full suite of surveys designed to capture perspectives from students, educators, and parents/guardians. Collectively, these surveys offer a deeper and more robust and balanced understanding of school climate and learning environments.



Raising voices to drive school quality



Student Perception Survey

Raising voices to drive school quality



Parent/Guardian Perception Survey

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Educator Perception Survey

Raising voices to drive school quality

The MI Student Voice Survey measures student perceptions of **engagement, belonging, and social-emotional learning**, with the goal of helping schools identify and implement effective strategies and interventions.

The Path of Progress



2019

Survey Creation

Superintendents across Kent ISD gathered to create the student survey.



2021

Pilot Testing

Student survey was pilot tested with **13 Kent ISD schools**.



2022

Year 1

Student survey was launched with **22 districts** participating.



2023

Year 2

Student survey was modified with **58 districts** participating.



2024

Year 3

Student survey participation jumps to **108 districts**. New Educator and Parent/Guardian surveys pilot-tested.



2025

Year 4

127 districts across the state participated in at least one survey. Educator and Parent/Guardian surveys officially launched.

"A school's ability to listen to students creates a system that not only empowers the school, but the students around it. And this starts with there being administrators and teachers and faculty members that are willing to listen to the students and making sure that they feel heard."

Kerim S,
East Kentwood High School



Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona ESD

Atlanta Community Schools
Hillman Community Schools

Bay-Arenac ISD

Au Gres-Sims School District
Bangor Township Schools
Bay-Arenac Community High School
Essexville-Hampton Public Schools
Pinconning Area Schools
Standish-Sterling Community Schools

Berrien RESA

Brandywine Community Schools
Buchanan Community Schools
Coloma Community Schools
Countryside Academy
Eau Claire Public Schools
Hagar Township S/D #6
Niles Community Schools
Watervliet School District

Calhoun ISD

Battle Creek Public Schools

Delta-Schoolcraft ISD

Bark River-Harris School District
Big Bay De Noc School District
Delta-Schoolcraft Area Center
Delta-Schoolcraft ISD
Escanaba Area Public Schools
Gladstone Area Schools
Manistique Area Schools
Mid Peninsula School District
Rapid River Public Schools

Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD

DeTour Arts and Technology Academy
Engadine Consolidated Schools
Sault Ste. Marie Area Schools

Eaton RESA

Charlotte Public Schools
Eaton RESA Career Preparation Center
Grand Ledge Public Schools
Maple Valley Schools

Genesee ISD

Atherton Community Schools
Bentley Community School District
Davison Community Schools
Flint Cultural Center Academy
Flushing Community Schools
Genesee Intermediate School District
Genesee School District
Grand Blanc Community Schools
International Academy of Flint
Kearsley Community School District
Lake Fenton Community Schools
Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools
Richfield Public School Academy
Westwood Heights Schools
Woodland Park Academy

Gratiot-Isabella RESD

Alma Public Schools
Ashley Community Schools
Breckenridge Community Schools
Fulton Schools
GIRESD Center Programs
Mt. Pleasant City School District
Shepherd Public Schools
St. Louis Public Schools

Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District

Cassopolis Public Schools

Hillsdale ISD

Reading Community Schools

Huron ISD

Huron Area Technical Center
Huron ISD
North Huron School District

Ingham ISD

East Lansing School District
Mason Public Schools (Ingham)
Stockbridge Community Schools
Waverly Community Schools

Iosco RESA

Hale Area Schools
Tawas Area Schools
Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools

Spring 2025 Survey Participation

Student Survey

125 DISTRICTS
87,181
STUDENT VOICES

Educator Survey

96 DISTRICTS
7,471
EDUCATOR VOICES

Parent/ Guardian Survey

86 DISTRICTS
17,834
PARENT/GUARDIAN
VOICES

Kent ISD

Caledonia Community Schools
Comstock Park Public Schools
Creative Technologies Academy
Godwin Heights Public Schools
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Grandville Public Schools
Kelloggsville Public Schools
Kenowa Hills Public Schools
Kent Career Tech Center
Kent City Community Schools
Kentwood Public Schools
Lowell Area Schools
Northview Public Schools
Rockford Public Schools
Sparta Area Schools
Thornapple Kellogg School District
West Michigan Aviation Academy
Wyoming Public Schools

Livingston ESA

Hartland Consolidated Schools
Howell Public Schools

Marquette-Alger RESA

Gwinn Area Community Schools

Menominee ISD

Carney-Nadeau Public Schools
Menominee Area Public Schools
North Central Area Schools
Stephenson Area Public Schools

Midland County Educational Service Agency

Midland Public Schools

Montcalm Area ISD

Montabella Community Schools
Montcalm Area ISD

Muskegon Area ISD

Muskegon Area Career Tech Center

Newaygo County RESA

Grant Public School District
Newaygo County Career Tech Center

Oakland Schools

Avondale School District
Clarenceville School District
Lake Orion Community Schools
Royal Oak Schools
Southfield Public School District

Ottawa Area ISD

Hudsonville Public School District
Saugatuck Public Schools

Saginaw ISD

Birch Run Area Schools
Saginaw Township Community Schools
Swan Valley School District

St. Joseph County ISD

Burr Oak Community School District

Van Buren ISD

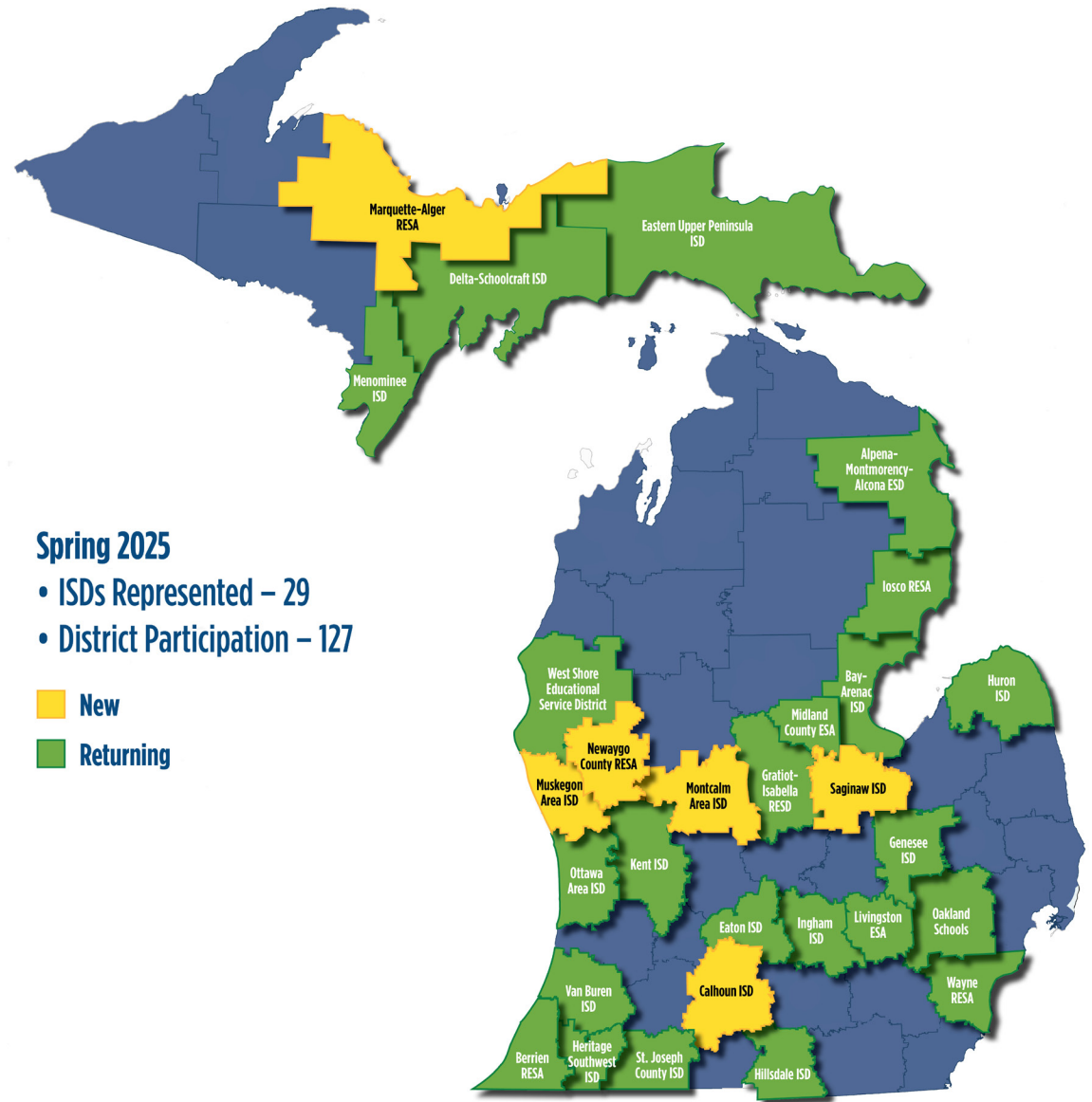
Bangor Public Schools (Van Buren)
Decatur Public Schools

Wayne RESA

Advanced Technology Academy
Allen Park Public Schools
Creative Montessori Academy
Dearborn Heights School District #7
Grosse Ile Township Schools
Redford Union Schools, District No. 1
Romulus Community Schools
South Redford School District
Summit Academy North
Taylor School District
The James and Grace Lee Boggs School
School District of the City of Wyandotte

West Shore Educational Service District

Mason County Central Schools
Shelby Public Schools
Walkerville Public Schools
West Shore ESD Career Tech Center



From Pages to Insights

Consortium-wide data affords a broader view of school climate and student experience across the state. This collective perspective allows districts to identify shared strengths and challenges.

The following are topline observations across the three surveys, representing both successes and room for growth.

Note: While the sample does not accurately reflect the ethnic or gender distribution of all Michigan students, our “oversampling” of smaller groups affords a better understanding of groups who might otherwise be underrepresented.

Student Survey



Student Engagement

- Students are still struggling the most with engagement.
- There is an opportunity to increase teacher-led conversations about how actions affect other students and constructive ways to resolve disagreements.
- Teacher encouragement emerged as a clear strength, with many students feeling supported to do their best in school.
- Students reported putting significant effort into their learning and staying attentive in class.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Caring about others' feelings was a commonly expressed value among students.
- Students expressed greater self-awareness through noticing how their bodies reflect their emotional states.
- Students continue to face ongoing challenges in certain aspects of SEL.
- Building a stronger sense of understanding and community among students remains an important area for growth.

Belonging

- Belonging was the highest-scoring domain for students.
- Students widely agreed that teachers treat peers from diverse backgrounds fairly.
- Students expressed confidence that they were afforded the same chances for success as others.
- Student responses indicated concerns about how discipline is handled at school, pointing to a potential area for further attention and dialogue.

Educator Survey



School Satisfaction

- The top-rated response highlighted how much our educators value the significance of their role.

Relationships & School Culture

- Educators reported positive relationships with their colleagues and felt respected by their peers.

Respect & Support

- There is opportunity to strengthen partnerships between educators and families to support student learning.

Leadership Effectiveness

- Educators emphasized the importance of individualized professional learning and supportive feedback from administrators.



Parent/Guardian Survey



Parent/Guardian Involvement

- Parents reported frequently engaging in conversations with their children about academic needs and classroom learning.

Parent/Guardian Satisfaction

- Parents reported feeling respected by staff both personally and in relation to their children, and expressed comfort in communicating with school personnel.

Student Engagement & Connection

- Findings suggest that student motivation - both in terms of learning and school attendance - represents a key area where the school can enhance its impact on the overall educational experience.

Belonging

- Responses indicated that parents perceive limited opportunities for students to engage in conversations about different perspectives, suggesting a potential area for further exploration.

Mental Health Summit

In fall of the 2024/25 school year, legislators and educators convened in Lansing for a session focused on student mental health and well-being. A panel of six students shared powerful insights on the importance of mental health and fostering a sense of belonging in schools. Complementing their voices, two school administrators highlighted how they are leveraging data from the MI Student Voice Perception Survey to strengthen school quality and enhance supports within their districts.



"I'm grateful to have this data at my disposal to inform my community of the very real work we have to do with our students and staff... keeping the mental health of our students at the core of everything we do."

*Dr. Katherine Bertolini, Superintendent,
Maple Valley Schools*

"The more scholars feel they belong, the more invested they become in meeting the expectations of the classroom community."

*Kenyatta Hill-Hall, Principal,
Grand Rapids University
Preparatory Academy*



In 2025, we worked with independent experts to develop a guide to help educators connect results from their district's MI Student Voice Perception Survey to classroom practice. By aligning survey domains with instructional guiding questions and indicators, the tool supports educators in focusing observations, framing team conversations, reflecting on classroom instruction, and identifying professional learning needs – all in support of continuous improvement.

Mariah R.,
Grand Rapids
University Preparatory
Academy

Dominic Lowe,
*Principal, East Kentwood
Freshman Campus*

Sutherland P.,
Buchanan High School



From Insights to Action

Here are some of the ways districts are using their data to strengthen outcomes for students and schools.



- Conducting focus groups with students, staff and parents
- Informing school improvement plans
- Incorporating it into MiCIP (Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process) and/or MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support)
- Supporting counselors in designing targeted student interventions
- Guiding professional development opportunities
- Facilitating stakeholder-driven discussions to inform continuous improvement planning
- Instructional Rounds
- Connecting SEL lessons to identified student needs
- Establishing classes focused on student connection and support
- Providing resources to students, educators and families
- Analyzing alongside other survey and assessment data



Your Voice Matters, Too!

Each year, we gather feedback from participating districts to help refine the survey administration process and strengthen and enhance the survey's usefulness to schools.

Translations – Students and parents/guardians can select from multiple languages to complete the survey.

Customizable Domains & Demographics – Administrators can tailor the survey to align with the specific needs of their district.

District and School Level Reports – Administrators can compare results and drill down into data at both the district and school levels.

Participation Rate Updates – Administrators receive real-time updates on district participation rates.

Expanded Administration Window Timelines – Flexible scheduling accommodates spring break and other testing windows.

QR Codes – Districts receive customized codes that provide easy access to each survey.

Anchor Reports – Districts can analyze connections across all three surveys using anchoring questions.



Steering Committee

MI Student Voice is guided by a Steering Committee made up of diverse education leaders representing communities from across the state.



Trevor Alward, PhD
Superintendent,
Grand Blanc Community Schools



Daveda Colbert, PhD
Superintendent,
Wayne RESA



Jenny Fee, PhD
Assistant Superintendent of
Instructional Services, Kent ISD



Ron Gorman, PhD
Superintendent,
Kent ISD



Kenneth Gutman
Superintendent,
Oakland Schools



Eric Hoppstock
Superintendent,
Berrien ISD



Scott Hutchins
Supervisor of the School Behavioral
Health Unit, Michigan Department
of Education



Heidi Kattula, PhD
Superintendent,
East Grand Rapids Public Schools



Ron Koehler
Superintendent Emeritus,
Kent ISD



Dori Leyko
Superintendent,
East Lansing Public Schools



Randy Lindquist
Superintendent,
Muskegon Area ISD



Kyle Mayer, PhD
Superintendent,
Ottawa Area ISD



Jason Mellema
Superintendent,
Ingham ISD



Philip "Ric" Seager
Superintendent,
Watervliet Public Schools



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



Steve Tunncliffe, PhD
Superintendent,
Genesee ISD



Sean Williams, PhD
Superintendent,
Eaton RESA

Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee is made up of data experts who provide in-depth analysis of survey reports and ensure the survey's validity and reliability are maintained.



Sunil Joy

Executive Director of Strategy and Innovation, Kentwood Public Schools



Mark Maynard

Director of Technology Partner Services, Kent ISD



Joseph Musial, PhD

Assessment and Evaluation Consultant, Wayne RESA



Steve Petros

Director of Assessment and Evaluation, Grand Rapids Public Schools



Jen Rotach

Senior Research & Data Analyst, Kent ISD



Davie Store, PhD

Director of Research and Continuous Improvement, Kent ISD



Elevating Student Voice

Our team continues to highlight the value of the MI Student Voice by presenting at conferences, meeting with education organizations, and engaging directly with school districts across Michigan. This outreach helps expand awareness and ensures more students have the opportunity to be heard.



Why MI Student Voice

We continue to work to make implementation of the survey as streamlined and seamless as possible.



FREE

**Everything
is Free**

EVERYTHING is free - using the survey, working with a technical advisor, customizations, receiving reports, etc.



CONCISE

**Less than
40 Questions**

The Student Survey consists of 3 domains with 12-15 questions each. It takes less than 15 minutes to complete.



FLEXIBLE

**Customizations
Available**

The survey has customizable features for districts. We also provide customizable marketing materials and templated communications.



VALIDATED

**Research-
Driven**

The survey design is backed by ongoing research and validation studies. A committee oversees its development.



THANK YOU

Thank you for recognizing the importance of elevating student voices. We remain committed to cultivating school cultures that advance both academic success and student well-being by fostering student engagement, a sense of belonging in school, and supportive learning environments.

With your continued partnership, we can build on this momentum to ensure that student perspectives help shape the best possible educational experience for all Michigan students.





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**Register your district to
administer the
Spring 2026
MI Student Voice surveys!**



www.MIStudentVoice.org

*"We are always
trying to meet our
students where they're
at - and the best way
to do that is to just
listen to them."*

Kurt Steiner,
Teacher, East Kentwood
Freshman Campus



*"Feeling like
you belong at school
gives a sense of
comfortability and it fosters
not only a great academic
setting, but a great creative
setting."*

Aiden D.,
Mason High School



*"When schools
provide an opportunity
for the students to speak out,
seeing that kind of response
from the schools - knowing that
they're going to change and
what they're going to do to help
better us - is very
important."*

Maddox G.,
East Lansing High
School



