MI Student VOICE

Raising voices to drive school quality

Student Perception Survey

2026 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.

MI Student® VOICE

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Student Perception Survey

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Parent/Guardian Perception Survey

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MI Student® VOICE

Educator Perception Survey

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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.



2026

Year 5

119 districts participate in at least one survey.

Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona ESD
Atlanta Community Schools

Bay-Arenac ISD
Bangor Township Schools
Bay City School District
Bay-Arenac Community High School
Essexville-Hampton Public Schools
Standish-Sterling Community Schools

Berrien RESA
Brandywine Community Schools
Bridge Academy of Southwest Michigan
Buchanan Community Schools
Coloma Community Schools
Countryside Academy
Eau Claire Public Schools
Hagar Township S/D #6
New Buffalo Area Schools
Niles Community Schools
Watervliet School District

Calhoun ISD
Battle Creek Public Schools

Copper Country ISD
Baraga Area Schools
L'Anse Area Schools

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

Dickinson-Iron ISD
Breitung Township School District
Dickinson-Iron ISD
Forest Park School District
Iron Mountain Public Schools
North Dickinson County Schools
Norway-Vulcan Area Schools
West Iron County Public Schools

Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD
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
Bentley Community School District
Davison Community Schools
Flint Cultural Center Academy
Genesee Intermediate School District
Genesee School District
Grand Blanc Community Schools
International Academy of Flint
Kearsley Community School District
Lake Fenton Community Schools
LakeVille Community School District
Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools
Westwood Heights Schools

Gratiot-Isabella RESD
Alma Public Schools
Fulton Schools
Shepherd Public Schools

Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District
Cassopolis Public Schools
Edwardsburg Public Schools

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

Iosco RESA
Hale Area Schools
Tawas Area Schools
Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools

Spring 2026 Survey Participation

Student Survey

117 Districts

88,140 Student Voices

Educator Survey

95 Districts

7,507 Educator Voices

Parent/Guardian Survey

95 Districts

16,592 Parent/Guardian Voices

Kent ISD
Caledonia Community Schools
Cedar Springs Public Schools
Comstock Park Public Schools
Covenant High School Grand Rapids
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
William C. Abney Academy
Wyoming Public Schools

Livingston ESA
Hartland Consolidated Schools
Howell Public Schools

Manistee ISD
Manistee Area Public Schools

Marquette-Alger RESA
Burt Township School District

Menominee ISD
Carney-Nadeau Public Schools
Menominee Area Public Schools
North Central Area Schools
Stephenson Area 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
Hesperia Community Schools
Newaygo County Career Tech Center

Oakland Schools
Avondale School District
Clarenceville School District
Hazel Park Schools
Royal Oak Schools
Southfield Public School District

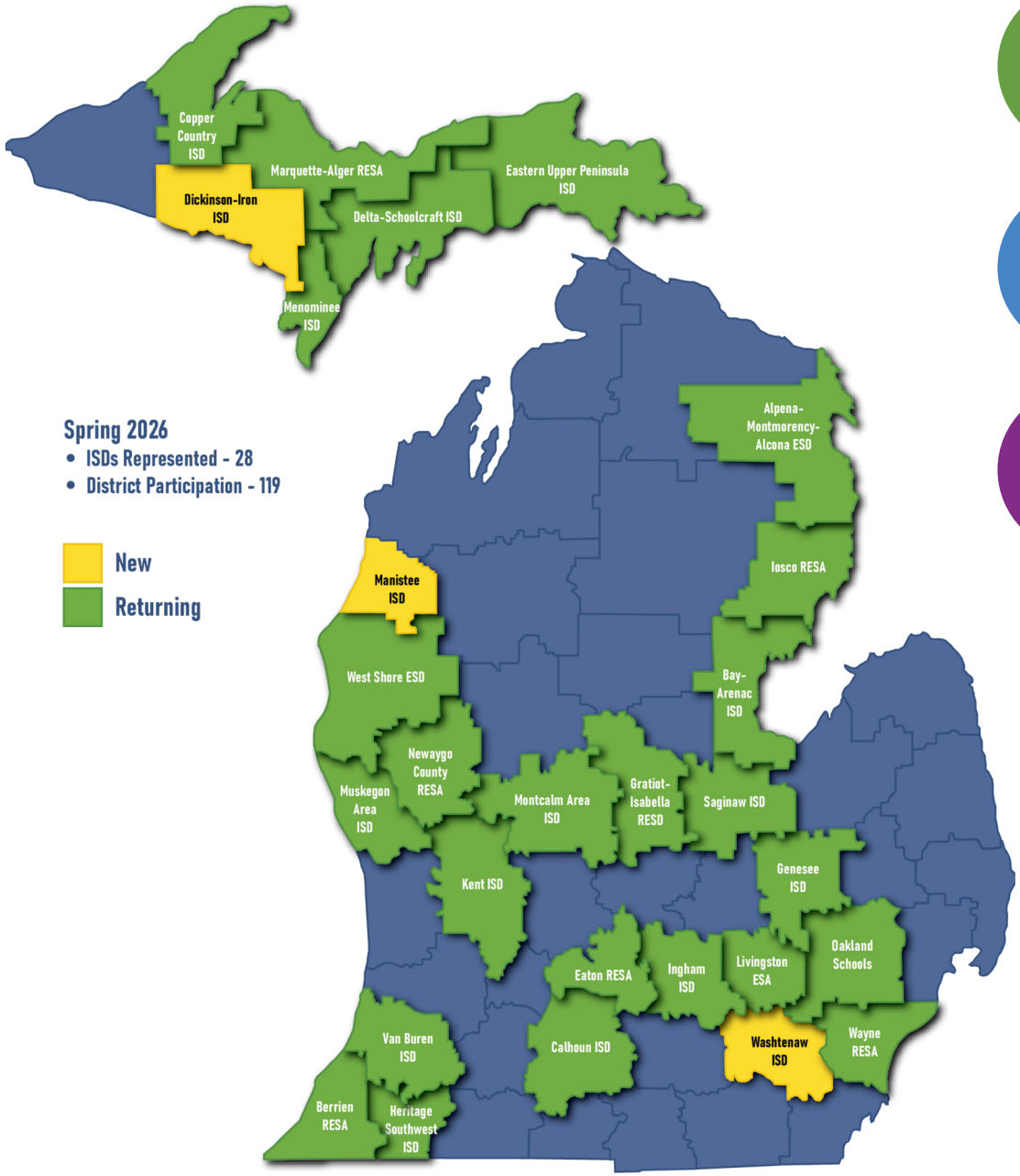
Saginaw ISD
Birch Run Area Schools
Saginaw Township Community Schools

Van Buren ISD
Decatur Public Schools
Paw Paw Public School District

Washtenaw ISD
Milan Area Schools

Wayne RESA
Advanced Technology Academy
Allen Park Public Schools
Covenant Schools Detroit
Dearborn Heights School District No. 7
Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences
Garden City Public Schools
Grosse Ile Township Schools
Redford Union Schools, District No. 1
Romulus Community Schools
South Redford 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
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

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Caring about others' feelings was a commonly expressed value among students.
- Students continue to face ongoing challenges in certain aspects of SEL.
- Students expressed that they are often respectful of differing opinions and points of view.
- Findings suggest opportunities to further support student's emotional well-being, peer connections, and sense of understanding towards one another.

Student Engagement

- Responses indicated that students are seeking more teacher awareness and support during times of emotional distress, which could further strengthen the student experience.
- Teacher encouragement emerged as a clear strength, with many students feeling supported to do their best in school.
- Students continued to report putting significant effort into their learning and staying attentive in class.
- There is an opportunity to increase teacher-led conversations about how actions affect other students and constructive ways to resolve disagreements.

Belonging

- Belonging continues to be 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.
- Continued growth is needed in fostering fair disciplinary practices, student-led inclusivity across backgrounds, and a school environment that encourages students to do their best.

Educator Survey

Relationships & School Culture

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

School Satisfaction

- Responses indicate that educators feel connected to students and, in general, perceive the schools as safe environments for their students.

Leadership Effectiveness

- Educators indicated that both district and school leadership could more consistently provide feedback on their work, foster greater comfort in raising concerns, strengthen approaches to behavior and discipline, and expand access to relevant professional development.

Respect & Support

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

In their open-ended response, educators spoke the most about disciplinary issues, support from leadership, and disconnects between staff and leadership.

Parent/Guardian Survey

Parent/Guardian Satisfaction

- Parents reported feeling respected by staff both personally and in relation to their children, and expressed opportunities for improvement in the school's approach to discipline and communication.

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 show areas for continued development in promoting student-led inclusivity, fairness, and respect for differing backgrounds and perspectives.

In their open-ended response, parents and guardians spoke the most about communication with the school, the quality of teachers and staff, and overall positive feedback.











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
- Instructional Rounds
- Establishing classes focused on student connection and support
- Providing resources to students, educators and families
- Evaluating alongside other survey and assessment data
- Implementing behavioral health support systems and restorative practices
- Engaging student groups in analyzing the survey data and deliberating future strategic planning

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 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 Hutchings
Supervisor of the School
Behavioral Health Unit, Michigan
Department of Education

Heidi Kattula, PhD
Superintendent,
East Grand Rapids Public Schools

Ron Koehler, PhD
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

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

Steve Tunnicliff, PhD
Superintendent,
Genesee ISD Administrators

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

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 45 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 2027 MI Student Voice surveys!

www.MIStudentVoice.org

"I like that it gives every student a chance to give their voice without having to talk… It gives everybody their voice to be heard."

Jeremiah R.
Grand Rapids U-Prep

"If you're invested as a superintendent wanting to understand student voice, this is a phenomenal place to begin. Student voice is everything."

Dr. Katherine Bertolini
Superintendent, Maple Valley Schools

"Every voice that you can hear is important. Because I'm a voice in the school system, I think that's why my perspective is valuable."

Zoe C.
East Grand Rapids High School