

5ESSENTIALS SURVEY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the 5Essentials and the 5Essentials Survey?

5Essentials is an evidence-based system designed to drive improvement in schools nationwide. It is based on research conducted by the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research. This research identified five components that are critical for school success. The 5Essentials Survey measures these five components.

- **Effective Leaders** – The principal works with teachers to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.
- **Collaborative Teachers** – The staff is committed to the school, receives strong professional development, and works together to improve the school.
- **Involved Families** – The entire school staff builds strong relationships with families and communities to support learning.
- **Supportive Environment** – The school is safe and orderly. Teachers have high expectations for students. Students are supported by their teachers and peers.
- **Ambitious Instruction** – Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the applications of knowledge.

The Illinois State Board of Education is requiring the implementation of the 5Essentials survey. Why?

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has recognized that test scores alone do not provide a full picture of teaching and learning in any one school. Under legislation (Senate Bill 7, PERA), the State Board is now mandated, on a biennial basis, to implement a learning conditions survey that will help provide a fuller picture of each school. To do so, the ISBE is requiring all Illinois public schools to implement the 5Essentials Survey.

Who takes the 5Essentials Survey and is it voluntary or mandatory for individuals?

All school districts are required, by legislation, to participate in the survey at least every other year. The first time District 31 participated was in 2013; therefore, it is time for us to do so, again, in 2015. Participation is defined as providing the opportunity to complete the survey to the following stakeholders: all grades 6-12 students and all pre-kindergarten-grade 12 certified teachers whose primary responsibility involves teaching students for the majority of the school day and year. The State considers a “certified teacher” to include classroom teachers, media specialists, speech/language pathologists, social workers, and counselors. The following positions are not eligible to participate: teacher assistants, tutors, substitute teachers, instructional coaches who do not otherwise teach, and student teachers.

Although school districts are mandated to implement the 5Essential student and teacher surveys every two years, an individual’s participation is strictly voluntary. Additionally, if an individual chooses to take the survey and does not wish to answer a specific question, he/she may skip it.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS

The 5Essentials student survey is an on-line survey. It asks questions about students’ experiences, attitudes, and activities in school. The Protection of Pupil Rights Act 20 U.S.C. Section 1232© (1) (A) gives parents the right to review a copy of the questions asked of their student(s). Survey questions can be found on the Illinois 5Essentials website, <https://Illinois.5-essentials.org>.

This year, student survey participants are required to log-in to the on-line 5Essential Survey using their student ID and birth date in order to complete the survey. Once logged in, the survey must be completed in one sitting. Students’ identities will be completely confidential. Teachers and administrators will never see individual responses to survey questions and will only receive aggregated information.

Students whose parents allow them to complete the 5Essentials survey will be given the opportunity to do so at school on a day during the survey window, January 12-March 13, during normal school hours.

To complete the student survey, students will:

- Visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois> and select Student Survey.
- Enter state student ID and birthdate.
- Select the necessary language to complete the survey (English or Spanish).
- Answer all applicable questions.
- Click Submit Survey.

Important note to parents who DO NOT wish their sons or daughters participate in the 2015 5Essential Survey:

If you DO NOT wish your son or daughter to participate in the 5Essentials Survey, fill out the information below and have your child return it to his/her advisory teacher no later than Friday, January 16, 2015. Please note the 5Essentials Survey acknowledges

passive parental consent. Passive consent assumes the parent or guardian has consented to their child’s participation in the survey unless the “opt out” statement, below, is completed and submitted to the school by January 16th. Principals are required to maintain a list of “opt out” students and notify their teachers.

cut on dotted lines

FIELD SCHOOL 5ESSENTIALS GRADE SIX STUDENT SURVEY OPT OUT	
<p>I DO NOT want my child, _____, to take part in the 2014-15 Illinois 5Essentials Survey. <div style="text-align: center; margin-left: 150px;">CHILD’S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)</div></p> <p>Advisory Room # _____ Advisory Teacher’s Name _____</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN DATE </div>	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CERTIFIED TEACHERS

The 5Essentials teacher survey is an on-line survey. It asks questions about instruction, professional development, and the school as a workplace. It must be completed during times that do not interfere with the teachers’ regular classroom and direct instructional duties. Teachers may complete the survey outside of regular school hours, during teacher meetings, or during professional development days.

District 31 teachers who choose to take the 5Essentials Survey will have the option of doing so at school or at home. Time will be set aside during a Monday after school meeting within the survey window of January 12-March 13, 2015.

Teachers who wish to preview the survey prior to taking it may do so by visiting <https://Illinois.5-essentials.org>.

To complete the teacher survey:

- Visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois> and select Teacher Survey.
- Enter requested demographic information.
- Advance to survey questions.
- Answer all applicable questions.
- Click Submit Survey

What are the results used for?

The 5Essentials survey has two purposes: 1) to help inform State policy and improvement initiatives; and 2) to help local administrators identify strengths and weaknesses at the district and school level and better target resources and interventions.

The information collected through the survey is reviewed and analyzed to generate a 5Essentials Report for each school. The 5Essentials Report includes a breakdown of teacher and student responses and provides a picture of the school environment based on the five Essential areas that research has found critical for school improvement. In order for a report to be generated by the State, 50% of a group’s members must participate. That means 50% of the grade six students need to complete the survey for the State to generate a student report, and 50% of the certified staff need to complete the survey for the State to generate a certified staff report.

Who will receive the results?

Aggregated data from the 5Essentials Survey will be shared with educators, parents, and the general public. In May 2015, principals and district administrators will be granted access to view the data. In the fall of 2015, results will be available to the public via the Illinois School Report Card.

How long does the survey take to administer?

The 5Essentials Survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Are participant responses confidential?

Yes, all survey responses are strictly confidential. No participant names or other unique identifiers are connected with individual responses or used in any report.

What is being done to protect the integrity of the survey results?

The Illinois State Board of Education and the University of Chicago are using preventative approaches to protect the integrity of the survey results. These measures are applied to deter multiple entries and to ensure participants do not inadvertently select the wrong school.

Are there any technical requirements to access the survey online?

Yes, one of the following browsers is needed to access the online survey:

- Mozilla Firefox (version 4 or newer)
- Internet Explorer (version 7 or newer)
- Google Chrome
- Safari (version 5 or newer)

Is there a way for parents to participate in the 5Essentials Survey?

The State provides a parent survey supplement that school districts can choose to use or not use. If implemented, results are only reported to the school districts and are not included on the State School Report Cards. In order for a report to be generated by the State, 30% or more of the parents within a school must complete the survey. This response rate is based on the total number of students in the school. The parent survey asks questions about the parent's overall relationship with the school.

District 31 will be facilitating the 5Essentials Survey for parents. Parents who wish to participate can access and complete the on-line survey any time between January 12 and March 13. To complete the parent survey:

- Visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/> and select Parent Survey.
- Select the necessary language to complete the survey (English or Spanish).
- Enter requested demographic information.
- Advance to survey questions.
- Answer all applicable questions.
- Click Submit Survey