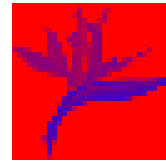


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# **School Quality Survey**

## Interpretation Guide

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Department of Education  
Accountability Section  
Assessment & Accountability Branch  
Office of Strategy, Innovation, and Performance

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# School Quality Survey

## Interpretation Guide

### Introduction

The purpose of this document is to assist schools with the interpretation of their School Quality Survey (SQS) results. The School Quality Survey is intended to supplement other school information used by leadership teams for school planning, improvement, and other purposes.

Additionally, the SQS is administered in response to statutory requirements (Hawaii Revised Statutes §302A-1004) and Hawaii State Board of Education policies, as well as to provide information to evaluate the Department of Education (DOE) Strategic Plan.

The first administration of the SQS began in the Spring of SY 2001. The SQS is administered annually or biennially to all DOE schools throughout the State. The participation of Public Charter Schools is voluntary.

### Interpretation of SQS Results

The set of SQS instruments operates cohesively to gather valuable feedback regarding school quality from the perspectives of parents, students, and school personnel (teachers, administrative and office staff, and instructional support staff). The survey forms are designed to elicit opinions about particular attributes of school, such as safety, well-being, satisfaction, and involvement/engagement, to assess school quality from these respondent groups. The input of these participants provides rich information individually and collectively to support school planning and other improvements.

**I. School survey size and return rate** – On the cover page of each school’s report is a table containing the number of surveys distributed to students, parents, and teachers, the number of completed surveys returned, and the return rate (the number of surveys returned divided by the number of surveys distributed).

- *What is a good return rate?* There is no simple rule of thumb. Clearly, the higher the return rate, the better. However, even a relatively low return rate can be informative about a school depending on the sample size.
- *Is there a standard return rate required for making comparisons?* There is no absolute standard in this regard. However, a school can compare its return rate with that of other similar schools in the State. The return rates for all elementary schools, middle/intermediate schools, and high schools are provided in the *Statewide Summary of SQS Results*.



**II. SQS Summary Table** –This table summarizes the responses of students, parents, and teachers on the items for each dimension. These summaries present the percentages of *Positive, Neutral, and Negative* response on all items by dimension. Average response scores for each dimension are also included on the Summary Tables.

- A school can readily compare a single group’s opinion across the four dimensions. For example, one could compare the opinions of parents to assess which of the dimensions are most positive or least positive.
- A school can compare the opinions of a single dimension across role groups. For example:
  - *Safety* - To what extent would students, parents, and school personnel agree that their school environment ensures their respective safety? (e.g., for parents, the safety of their child)
  - *Well-Being* - To what extent would students, parents, and school personnel agree that their school promotes their respective well-being? (e.g., for parents, the well-being of their child)
  - *Satisfaction* - To what extent would students, parents, and school personnel agree that their school provides the support or services that meet their respective needs as learners (for students), as teachers and school staff support (for school personnel), and as legal guardians of students (for parents)?
  - *Involvement/Engagement* - To what extent would students, parents, and school personnel agree that their school offers opportunities for their respective participation in school programs and activities?

**III. SQS Summary Figure** – The SQS Summary Figure provides the percentage of *Positive* response for each role group by dimension.

**IV. Dimension- and Item-Level Results Tables** – The tables provide results by dimension and by item for students, parents, and teachers. Also, the tables present the number and percent response distributions for each item, and an average rating for each item.

To ensure the confidentiality of small numbers of Administrative and Office Staff (AOS) and Instructional Support Staff (ISS) at some schools, their survey data are reported statewide and by Complex Area. Also, only the average ratings of single items, not their individual ratings, are reported if there are less than 10 possible respondents.



## V. Other Information

### Respondents

- At the elementary school level, parents and students from Grades 4 and 5 are surveyed.
- At the middle school level, parents and students from Grades 7 and 8 are surveyed.
- At the high school level, parents and students from Grades 9 and 11 are surveyed.

### Response (Rating) Scale of Instrument

For the 2015 SQS reports, a 7-point rating scale is provided for all instruments. The scale options are: Completely Agree, Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, and Completely Disagree.

### Methods of Administration

With the exception of the parent respondent group, all respondent groups complete the SQS exclusively online. Parents were given both online and paper options to fill out the 2015 SQS.

### Percentage of Positive and Negative Response

The *Positive* values in the summary table are the combined percentages of “Completely Agree,” “Strongly Agree” and “Agree” responses to the items within each dimension. The *Negative* values are the combined “Completely Disagree,” “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree” responses to the items within a dimension.

### SQS Resources

- *School Quality Survey Dimension Descriptions* provide descriptions of the four SQS dimensions.
- *Statewide Summary of SQS Results* present the results of the surveys aggregated at the statewide level.
- *Complex Area Summaries of SQS Results* show survey findings aggregated by complex area.
- *School Quality Survey Instruments* include four SQS forms: 1) elementary school student, 2) middle and high school student, 3) parent, and 4) school personnel (teachers, administrative and office staff, and instructional support staff).

Additional SQS resources are available on the Accountability Section’s ARCH website: <http://arch.k12.hi.us/school/sqs/sqs.html>.

