



# SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

Deer Lakes School District

Tuesday, May 14, 2019



# DEER LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School Climate Survey Report Survey Criteria

The purpose of the Climate Survey is to engage staff, parents and students in a conversation about the climate at their school and in the school district at large.

The survey asked participants about their perspectives of school climate:

- Academic Rigor/Preparation
- Student Support
- School Leadership
- Parent Engagement
- Safety and Behavior
- School Operations

The survey was conducted to help assist campus administrators identify areas of strength as well as opportunities for growth, system-wide results in the following report.



# DEER LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School Climate Survey Report Technical Notes

- ▶ The survey was open December 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019.
- ▶ Teachers and staff were invited to participate in the survey by way of email notification. One hundred and twenty-two employees responded.
- ▶ Parents or guardians of at least one enrolled student were also invited to participate via email. Forty-four Deer Lakes parents agreed to weigh in.
- ▶ All Deer Lakes School District students were encouraged to complete the survey with 911 agreeing to participate. They included 324 students at East Union Intermediate Center, 311 students from Deer Lakes Middle School and 315 students from Deer Lakes High School.
- ▶ All questions were voluntary except demographic information.
- ▶ This is a census-survey administration. Therefore, results reflect the views of just those who chose to participate in the survey and do not necessarily represent the views of the non-respondents.



# ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (CPC & EUIC)

## School Climate Survey Report Student Response

### Areas of Excellence

- ▶ An overwhelming percentage of our elementary students agree that the staff is willing to give extra help, is there for them if they need them, notice good student behavior and that the presence of a school police officer make their schools more safe.

### Opportunities for Growth

- ▶ A fair amount of our students report being bored at school and nearly 1-in-4 students feel that their work is interesting.



# DEER LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL

## School Climate Survey Report Student Response

### Areas of Excellence

- ▶ An overwhelming majority of middle school students agree that their teachers make them think and provide challenging opportunities in the classroom. According to the middle schoolers surveyed, their teachers typically require them to explain their answers on assignments. They also agree that their math curriculum is challenging and is preparing them for high school. The students also believe that adults in that building are willing to give them extra help. Finally, the vast majority of students who participated in the survey do not feel threatened while at school.

### Opportunities for Growth

- ▶ Our students are growing and developmentally they are working on how to treat others. There are more students who think it is okay to say mean things to others when they think they deserve it. Also, our students need to learn how to work out their disagreements with others by talking to them in a more civil manner.



# DEER LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

## School Climate Survey Report Student Response

### Areas of Excellence

- ▶ The majority of high school students surveyed say they feel safe outside of school, in the hallways and in their classrooms. The high schoolers also say they regularly have the opportunity to collaborate with others and that their teachers encourage them to share their ideas and explain their rationales. The high school students also feel that their teachers genuinely care about them and that their teachers believe in them and that they are capable of doing challenging work. Two-thirds of students say their teacher is willing to stay afterschool to provide extra support.

### Opportunities for Growth

- ▶ Although nearly two-thirds of students feel their school counselors have well prepared them for their post-graduate careers, we believe that number should be even higher and are taking measures to improve those figures. More than half admit to failing to consistently give their best effort when they are not engaged in their preferred tasks.



# DEER LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School Climate Survey Report Parent Response

### Areas of Excellence

- ▶ The overwhelming percentage of parents surveyed agree that their child is safe in our schools. Also, the vast majority of parents said they would recommend Deer Lakes schools to others. Additionally, the majority of parents surveyed feel very good about their school's overall supportiveness, teacher communication, parent/teacher rapport and that the school is offering their children appropriate academic supports. The parents also feel that their children are treated fairly at school and are getting a good education. Additionally, roughly four-in-five parents say they feel welcomed in our schools.

### Opportunities for Growth

- ▶ Roughly two-thirds of parents surveyed agree that their children's teachers are interested in what they have to say. That is an area we hope to improve upon through enhanced communication.



# DEER LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School Climate Survey Report Staff Response

### Areas of Excellence

- ▶ The overwhelming majority of district staff surveyed feel that they work in a safe learning environment. More than 4-in-5 staffers say they are happy working at Deer Lakes and feel that the district is making steady progress in implementing rigorous academic standards. The staff also overwhelmingly agrees that students are encouraged to take advanced classes such as honors and advanced placement courses.

### Opportunities for Growth

- ▶ Just over half the staff feel supported and believe they play a significant role in the decision-making process at their school. We hope to improve that figure through enhanced dialogue with the staff.



# DEER LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School Climate Survey Report Conclusions

### Areas of Excellence

- ▶ The overwhelming percentage of students, parents and staff surveyed agree that Deer Lakes is a safe, welcoming environment and would recommend it to others. The respondents also said that the communication is strong between the school district, its teachers and our families. Finally, the students, parents and staff concur that district staff is willing to give extra help, treats students fairly and is preparing the students well for their post-graduate careers.

### Areas for Growth

- ▶ While the overall response was extremely encouraging, we continue to strive to improve on those numbers, especially as it pertains to making our parents and students realize that their teachers are completely invested in their feedback and for district staff to understand that their input matters in the day-to-day operations of the school district.