

Introduction to ED School Climate Surveys (EDSCLS) Benchmark Scale Scores

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- This is a “Listen-Only” online event.
- If you have a question during the webinar, please enter it into the participant chat box.
- The Webinar recording and slides will be emailed to registrants and posted online within a week after today’s event.
- If you are having any audio problems or other technical issues, please let us know by emailing edscls@air.org or calling 1-866-730-6735.



Which of the following best describes your role? (Check all that apply.)

- IT administrator
- Survey administrator
- State administrator
- District leader
- School leader
- Researcher
- Other (Please share in the participant chat box.)



During which school years has your State/district/school administered the EDSCLS? (Check all that apply.)

- School Year 2014-15 (pilot)
- School Year 2015-16
- School Year 2016-17
- School Year 2017-18
- Not yet



- **Revisit EDSCLS background for context.**
- **Introduce benchmarked scale scores produced by the EDSCLS VM 3.0 (and later versions).**
- **Review changes to scale scores and understand the implications.**
- **Learn the benefits of the benchmarks and how to interpret the three benchmark levels.**
- **Understand options for converting ‘legacy’ scale scores to benchmarked scale scores.**

EDSCLS Background



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- **Measuring school climate is critical for *improving* school climate! High quality school climate data allow you to:**
 - Understand the perceptions of the students, staff, and parents in your school or district;
 - Monitor progress;
 - Make data-driven decisions;
 - Involve stakeholders; and
 - Adapt to shifting needs related to school climate.
- **To facilitate school climate measurement, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) developed the high-quality, adaptable ED School Climate Surveys (EDSCLS) and associated web-based platform.**
- **The surveys can be downloaded free of charge, administered online via a platform, and provide user-friendly reports back to users.**

U.S. Department of Education Safe Supportive Schools Model



Domain: Engagement

Topics:

Cultural and linguistic competence

Relationships

School participation

Domain: Safety

Topics:

Emotional safety

Physical safety

Bullying/
cyberbullying

Substance abuse

Emergency readiness/
management

Domain: Environment

Topics:

Physical environment

Instructional
environment

Physical health

Mental health

Discipline



- **Middle grade (5-8) students**
- **High school students**
- **Teachers**
- **Non-instructional staff (including principals)**
- **Parents / Guardians**

Scale score reports are not available for this respondent group.



- **Includes reporting tool for providing**
 - item-level means and percentages and
 - domain-level scale scores and topic-level sub-scale scores.

- **Reporting tool can produce scores by school and the following demographic characteristics:**
 - **Student Survey:** grade level, race/ethnicity, and gender;
 - **Instructional Staff Survey:** race/ethnicity and gender;
 - **Non-instructional Staff Survey:** race/ethnicity and gender; and
 - **Parent Survey:** No demographic information available.

- **Quick turn-around**
 - Reports are available within 24 hours of data collected through the platform.
 - Reports are available immediately for data that are imported into the platform.



Is your site administering the EDSCLS VM 3.0 or any later versions this school year?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

About the EDSCLS Benchmark Scale Scores





- **Benchmark scale scores are available in the EDSCLS VM/platform versions published in December 2017 or later.**
- **As a reminder:**
 - A scale score combines results for multiple survey questions related to a particular aspect of school climate, such as school participation or safety.

Reason for Benchmarking EDSCLS Scale Scores

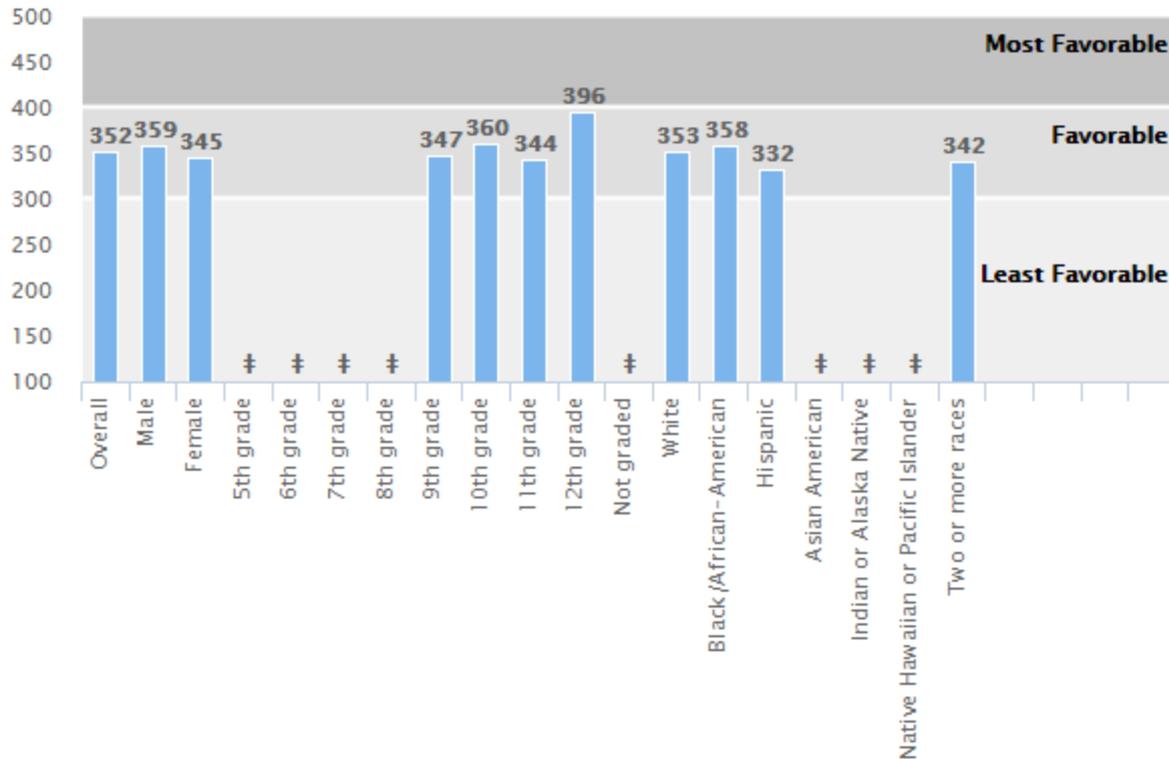


- **Before benchmarking, the scale scores did not indicate how well a school performed according to the perceptions of respondents.**
 - It was difficult to interpret scale scores in the context of the survey responses.
 - Users could only compare results within domains.

EDSCLS Benchmark Scale Scores and School Climate Levels



AVERAGE ENGAGEMENT BY GENDER, RACE/ETHNICITY, GRADE, AND BENCHMARK LEVEL





■ **Level 3: Most Favorable**

- *The most favorable* perception of this school climate domain or topic area.
- The score is more than 400.

■ **Level 2: Favorable**

- *A favorable* perception of this school climate domain or topic area.
- The score is 300- 400.

■ **Level 1: Least Favorable**

- *The least favorable* perception of this school climate domain or topic area.
- The score is less than 300.



- **Psychometricians used Rasch Modeling to benchmark the EDSCLS scale scores.**
 - The benchmark scale scores are based on psychometric analyses of EDSCLS survey responses from 27,500 students; 1,660 instructional staff; and 470 noninstructional staff.
- **Psychometricians changed the algorithm that transforms the raw scores to the reported scale scores.**
 - Raw scale scores were transformed into whole numbers and centered at 300 and within a range of 100-500.
 - Now the raw scale scores are transformed into whole numbers with 300 and 400 as cutoff points separating “performance” levels 1 and 2, and levels 2 and 3, respectively.



- 1. It is easier to interpret scale scores in the context of survey responses.**
- 2. Users can compare the three “performance” levels across the EDSCLS domains.**
 - ❖ For example, if a school’s engagement score falls within the least favorable level and the safety score falls within the favorable level, this suggests that students in the school feel the school is not doing as well in engaging students as it is in providing a safe environment for students.
- 3. Users can compare “performance” levels across domains, but not scale scores.**
- 4. Users are NOT able to compare the scale scores that were produced by earlier versions of the EDSCLS (aka “legacy” scale scores) to the benchmark scale scores because the transformation of raw scores to reported scores is different.**

Questions?



Transitioning to EDSCLS Benchmark Scale Scores





If you have raw data collected by earlier versions of the EDSCLS platform, you can:

1. Import the raw data into the EDSCLS VM 3.0, or later version, and rerun the data in the VM.
2. Use the new R code that creates benchmark scale scores to convert your old data to benchmark scale scores.

If you do not have raw data collected by earlier versions of the EDSCLS platform, you can:

1. Contact the EDSCLS Help Desk at EDSCLS@air.org or 866-730-6735.
2. Get the *old* R code to convert your benchmark scale scores into the 'legacy' scores.

Note on Benchmark Scale Scores



- One survey item was dropped from the environment (domain) and the instructional environment (topic) scales in the noninstructional staff survey.
 - NENVINS141: “Staff at this school expect students to do their best all the time.”
- The item is still included in the survey, but is now excluded from the scale score calculations.

Questions?



EDSCLS Resources and Support



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- **Information on EDSCLS administration**
 - <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/edscls/administration>

- **Information on EDSCLS benchmark scale scores**
 - <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/edscls/benchmarks>

- **Information on the EDSCLS VM updates**
 - <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/edscls/VMUpdates>

- **EDSCLS User Guide**
 - https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/sites/default/files/EDSCLS_UserGuide.pdf

- **NCSSLE School Climate Improvement Resource Package: School Climate Data Interpretation Resources** (New versions that reflect the benchmark scale scores will be published soon.)
 - <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/scirp/about>



- **Help desk staff are available Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm Eastern Time.**
- **Submit and receive responses to questions via phone or email.**
 - EDSCLS@air.org
 - (866) 730-6735
- **Help desk staff are trained to address questions on the following topics:**
 - Downloading and installing the platform (help desk staff may need to pull in additional IT support as needed);
 - Setting up the platform;
 - Administering the survey and survey logistics; and
 - Reporting.

Questions?





- **NCSSLE is scheduled to make additional enhancements to the EDSCLS.**
- **What kinds of enhancements would you like to see in the future? (Share in participant chat box.)**
- **To provide additional feedback on the EDSCLS, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDSCLFeedbackForm>.**



Website

<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/edscls>

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