

Amherst County High School Climate Survey Results

Trends 2015-18

During January and February 2018 Amherst County High School (ACHS) conducted a school climate survey of students, faculty, and parents/guardians. This was the third year the survey was conducted to address OCR concerns and to plan school improvement. Surveys included seven categories, which contained fifty-nine items and four open-ended questions. Categories included relationships among school community members, school safety, clear expectations, communication, comfort interacting with difference, clarity or rules, and fairness of rules. The survey used a four-point Likert scale with a 5% difference being seen as meaningful.

Forty-two of fifty-nine items showed an increase in student agreement this year. Sixteen items remained constant (defined as 1-3 percentage-points fluctuation) and one item showed a slight decrease in student agreement. Six topics: Relationships among school community members, Clear expectations, Communication, Comfort interacting with Difference, Clarity of Rules, and Fairness of Rules showed an increase or remained constant in student agreement with every item in those categories. These are areas that showed positive increases across the three years and are strengths upon which the school can build.

The school safety topic contained 18 items, with 17 items moving in a positive direction. Student agreement with “I feel safe at school” increased from 70% to 79% over the three years of the survey. The only item that moved in a negative direction was “I am bullied at school”. Seventeen percent of students agreed with this statement compared to 14% last year. While a 3% difference is small, any increases concerning bullying are taken seriously by the school and will be addressed.

Overall, the results of the three-year comparison show ACHS to be moving in a positive direction concerning school climate. Students view the school as friendlier, more welcoming, and supportive. Student agreement rose on all items concerning fairness of rules. ACHS continues to focus on maintaining a respectful, supportive environment focused on student achievement.

The faculty survey results overall were positive and showed growth. There were increases in faculty agreement that the faculty is friendly, values what students have to say, and is fair when they apply the rules. Teacher agreement increased concerning students showing respect in the classroom.

The parent/guardian survey results showed positive trends in agreement with items. There was a 19% increase (57% to 76%) in “The rules in school apply to all students.” Procedures focused on consistency appear to be supporting consistent discipline. Parents/guardians perceived the school as friendly with excellent teachers and understanding administrators.

Overall, all surveys showed positive movement. ACHS will continue to assess school climate and work to make our school an outstanding place for young people to learn.