



School Climate Score

The South Carolina School Climate Score (SC-SCS) provides a school-level description of several factors that are known to influence student safety and learning success in schools. Scores are based on the 2012 and 2013 South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) surveys for students and school-level discipline referral incidence data. SC-SCS values can potentially range from 0 to 100, with higher scores representing more positive learning environments. The SCS is calculated by computing the average of three domains: (1) Engagement (33.3%); (2) Safety (33.3%) and (3) Environment (33.4%). These domains are themselves each measured by two to three subdomains, as listed below.

1. Engagement (33.3%)
 - Relationship Quality (3 survey items)
 - Home-School Relationships (7 survey items)
 - Low Truancy (3 truancy incidence indicators)
2. Safety (33.3%)
 - Perceived Safety (3 survey items)
 - Physical Safety (16 incidence indicators)
 - Low Crime Incidence Rate (12 incidence indicators)
 - Low Fighting Incidence Rate (2 incidence indicators)
 - Low Bullying Incidence Rate (2 incidence indicators)
3. Environment (33.4%)
 - Physical Environment (4 survey items)
 - Learning Environment (5 survey items)
 - Disciplinary Environment (5 survey items/2 incidence indicators)
 - Positive Student Behavior (2 survey items)
 - Rule Clarity/Fairness (3 survey items)
 - Low Suspension Incidence Rate (1 incidence indicator)
 - Low Expulsion Incidence Rate (1 incidence indicator)

The subdomains and underlying indicators are weighted such that the survey and referral incidence measures account for 85 and 15 percent, respectfully, of the total SCS. Scores were not calculated if the student survey response rate was less than 50 percent in the school. Further information about the methodology used to construct the SCS can be obtained by contacting Tom Hanson at 562-799-5170 or thanson@WestEd.org.

Incidence Rate Measures

Incidence rate indicators are shown as a complement to the school climate scores and sub-scales. Each of these rates is calculated by dividing the number of incidents by student enrollment (multiplied by 100). Expulsion and suspension rate data provide information regarding the disciplinary environment of the school. Crime, fighting, and bullying incidence rate data describe the school environment with regards to safety. Truancy rate results are provided to describe the absolute rate of truancy, an indicator of school attachment. The following discipline referral codes were used to define each incidence rate measure.

- Expulsion: expulsions
- Suspension: out-of-school suspensions
- Crime: aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, robbery, drug distribution, weapons incidents, disturbing school
- Fighting: fighting, altercation-fight, disruption
- Bullying: bullying, cyber-bullying
- Truancy: truancy, habitual truancy, chronic truancy