TELL Colorado Survey

2015

Description

Initiated through HB 08-1384, the Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning (TELL) Survey is a biennial statewide survey of school-based staff (teachers and leadership) on their perceptions of the teaching and learning conditions in their schools. Participation is voluntary and anonymous. Districts and schools that get at least 50 percent participation (and at least five respondents) have access to their own data.

The fourth administration of the survey opens Feb. 11 through March 9, 2015. Data from this iteration of the survey is available in spring 2015. The survey was previously administered in 2009, 2011 and 2013; historical data is available at tellcolorado.org.

Information about the survey, including historical data is available on the website: www.tellcolorado.org.

The Colorado Department of Education leads the effort, in partnership with the Colorado Association of School Boards, Colorado Association of School Executives, Colorado Education Association, Colorado League of Charter Schools and the Governor's Office. As in past years, the New Teacher Center has been selected to administer the survey.

Purpose

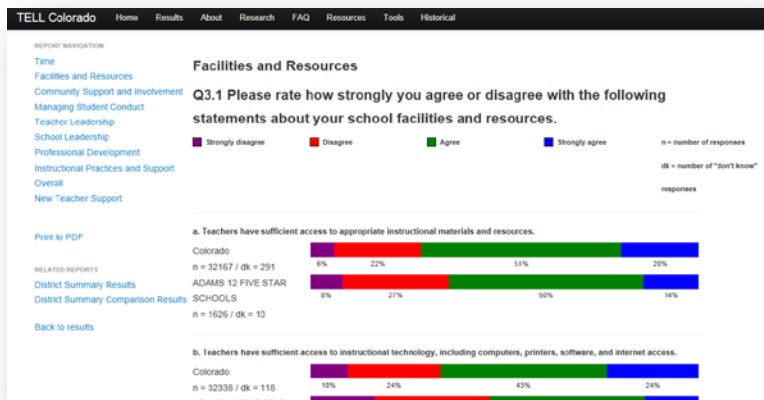|	
Amplify Educators' Voice	The TELL Survey provides schools, districts and state policymakers with reliable data on teaching and learning conditions. It offers additional information for discussion and gives potential suggestions on areas that deserve attention in a school environment.
Deepen Improvement Planning	The survey provides additional data to support school improvement efforts (e.g., root cause analysis in the Unified Improvement Plan). The survey data can help staff to identify positive trends in school conditions, as well as identify areas that deserve further discussion.
Strengthen Educator Evaluation	The survey provides results that may be used by school leaders to reflect on their practice, identify focus areas for improvement, and establish professional goals related to improving the working conditions of their school. Note that leadership items refer to a group of people, rather than solely the principal.

Details about the Survey and Accessing the Data

There are several dashboard displays for each school and district to view their own data. State and local comparisons are added.
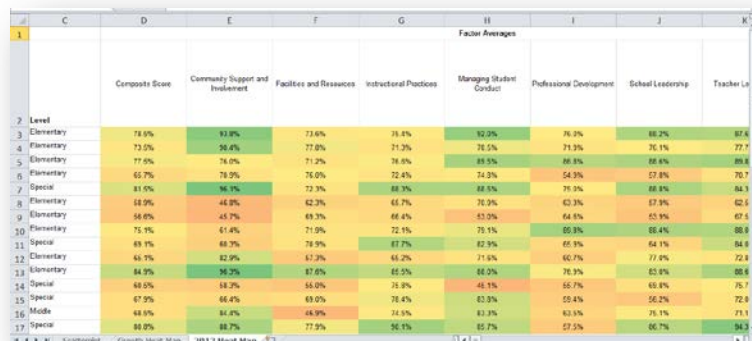
The survey takes educators 20 to 30 minutes to complete. Questions focus on time, facilities and resources, community support and involvement, managing student conduct, teacher leadership, school leadership, professional development, instructional practices and support, future employment plans, new teacher support and district support for school leadership. If schools and districts meet the 50 percent participation threshold, school/district data are available. There are several data displays and options for downloading school and district level data.

What Colorado has Learned

In addition to making data available to schools and districts for their own analysis, the state has identified the following statewide trends:

- Overall, Colorado educators are very positive about school conditions.
- Time is consistently the biggest challenge.
- Sense of efficacy and support from leadership affects teacher attrition more than other factors (e.g., salary).
- Effective induction support and mentoring is not systematically available to novice educators.
- The construct with the strongest relationship to student performance is community involvement and support.

Data can be downloaded into spreadsheets. The new heat map color coding feature helps staff quickly identify positive trends and areas that need further attention.