



Parents and Guardians: Complete Guide to the Panorama Survey

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Panorama Student Survey: Basics

1. WHO takes the Panorama Student Survey?

- All students in grades 3-12 in DCPS take the survey.

2. WHAT is the Panorama Student Survey?

- The survey asks students questions about their social and emotional learning (SEL), school climate, and school satisfaction.

3. WHEN is the Panorama Student Survey?

- The survey is administered yearly. In the 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 school years the survey was administered once in the spring. Starting in the 2020-21 school year, the survey will be administered in both the fall and spring.

4. WHY is the Panorama Student Survey important?

- The survey is important because it is how DCPS measures student social emotional learning and school climate. The district uses the results to understand student SEL needs and plan training and support.
- The student survey in the spring is also the only the district gathers data on student satisfaction with their schools
- The survey is also how DCPS measures progress toward our vision that every student feels loved, challenged, and prepared to positively influence society and thrive in life. Survey results are used to calculate school and district scores on our Loved, Challenged, and Prepared Index (LCPI). Schools act on the data to improve student experiences.
- DCPS is also piloting an exciting new tool called the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Platform, which will eventually be used by all DCPS schools. The platform will enable teachers and staff to see data on students' attendance, behavior, academic, SEL, and interventions in one place, allowing educators to make informed decisions about how best to support students. The SEL data on the platform will come from the Panorama survey. With questions about the MTSS dashboard, email panoramasurvey@k12.dc.gov.

5. HOW will my child take the survey?

- Students will take the survey online at surveys.panoramed.com/dcps. Students should open the link and enter their Student IDs when asked for an Access Code.
- This link will also be shared with students via an announcement on Canvas.
- Some schools may administer the survey during online classes.

Panorama Student Survey: Security and Parental Permission

1. Is the Student Survey SECURE?

- Yes. Your child's privacy will be protected to the allowed by law, and your child's name will never be shared in reports.
- Survey responses are sent to [Panorama Education](#), a secure third party, for processing and to the DCPS Office of Data Systems and Strategy for analysis.

2. Who has ACCESS to survey results?

- As of fall 2020, using the new MTSS Platform, a student's teachers can see how students scored themselves on different SEL topics on the survey, like Self-Efficacy or Self-Management.
- Teachers will NOT be able to see how a student answered individual questions and will NOT see any information from Student Satisfaction questions or questions on gender and sexual identity. The MTSS Platform is secure and can be accessed only by teachers or staff at a student's school.
- At schools not using the MTSS Platform this year, teachers and staff will only see aggregated results and will not see any information on individual students.
- Because of the policy change, we are allowing parents and guardians to retroactively opt students out of past Panorama surveys so their past survey results will not be visible on the MTSS platform. See our opt-out letter at dcps.dc.gov/surveys for more details.

3. Where can I see the QUESTIONS for the Student Survey?

- You can see them on our website at dcps.dc.gov/surveys.

4. Does my child need my PERMISSION to take the Panorama Student Survey?

- No, but you can choose to opt out your child (see next question). If the school does not hear from you, your child is expected to take the survey.

5. How can I OPT OUT my child from the Panorama Student Survey?

- Each survey period, DCPS will distribute a letter about opting out and a link to fill out an opt-out form. The letter will also be posted on our website at dcps.dc.gov/surveys.

6. Why does the student survey (for 6th-12th grades only) ask whether students are straight, gay/lesbian, or bisexual and whether they are transgender?

- The survey asks about students' sexuality and gender identity so schools and the district can analyze whether results are different for different groups and provide targeted support.

7. Whom can I contact with QUESTIONS?

- Email panoramasurvey@k12.dc.gov.

Panorama Family Survey

1. What is the Panorama Family Survey?

- The Panorama Family Survey is the only time in the year when the district surveys all parents and guardians about their satisfaction with their school system. Family responses are also important for gathering information on student social emotional learning (SEL) and school climate. Together with student and teacher results, the family results help principals decide on whole-school interventions for the next school year. Schools work with SEL Specialists, the Communications and Engagement Office, and the Office of Data Systems and Strategy to understand results.

2. Will my child's teacher or principal know what I said on the survey?

- No. The Family Survey is anonymous.
- The data are sent directly to [Panorama Education](#), a secure third party. Panorama processes results and reports them to DCPS.

3. How can I take this year's survey?

- You can take it at bit.ly/dcpsfamily. If DCPS knows your email address, you will receive a link by email.
- A QR code to access the survey on a phone will be posted in flyers each school.
- If you would prefer a paper survey, you can get one in your school's front office.

4. What do I do if I have multiple children?

- If you have **children in different DCPS schools**, please fill out a survey for each school. If you have **more than one child in the same school**, please focus on the experience of your **oldest child** attending that school.

5. Is the survey available in other languages?

- Yes! It is available in English, Spanish, Amharic, and Chinese. When you click the survey link (bit.ly/dcpsfamily), there is an option inside the survey to select other languages. Paper surveys in those languages will also be available at your school's front office.

6. Why does the survey ask about my child's approach to goals?

- This survey helps us gather data on students' social emotional learning (SEL), the process of developing key skills for academic and life success. The survey asks questions about several research-based categories: perseverance, self-management, self-efficacy, and social awareness. Your responses will help schools ensure they're providing effective supports.
- The student and teacher surveys ask some similar questions, but it's important to get the insight of parents and guardians too—you know your children best.

7. Why does the survey ask about my race and ethnicity, what ward I live in, and my child's gender?

- The survey asks for this demographic information so schools and the district can analyze whether results are different for different groups and provide targeted support. It also tells the district whether we are hearing from a variety of perspectives.