



Parents and Guardians: Frequently Asked Questions about the Panorama Survey

In this document:

- [FAQs about the Panorama Family Survey](#)
- [FAQs about the Panorama Student Survey](#)

FAQs about the 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), the Loved Challenged Prepared Index (LCPI), and school climate. Together with student and teacher results, the family results help principals decide on whole-school interventions for the next school year. They also 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 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 from **January 13 to February 14, 2020**. If DCPS knows your email address, they will also email you a link to the survey.
 - 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, Chinese, Vietnamese, and French. 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—they are the ones who know their children best, and they can report on behavior in settings beyond the classroom.
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.

FAQs about the Panorama Student Survey

1. What is the Panorama Student Survey, and why is it important?
 - The survey asks questions that provide information on social and emotional learning (SEL), school climate, and school satisfaction. It is important because it is the only time in the year that the district surveys all students about their experience in DCPS and measures progress on SEL and the Loved, Challenged, and Prepared Index (LCPI). Schools act on the data to improve student experiences.
2. How will my child take the survey?
 - Schools choose whether students will take the survey on paper (in school) or online.
 - Students whose schools are using the paper survey can still take it online here. A link will be posted on the top of the page from March 2 to March 13. They will need to know their student IDs to take the survey.
3. Is the Student Survey confidential?
 - Yes. Teachers, principals, and other school staff will not be able to access individual student responses.
 - Students enter their IDs to take the survey to ensure that the correct school and demographic information is matched to each response. The data are sent to [Panorama Education](#), a secure third party, for processing and to the DCPS Office of Data Systems and Strategy for analysis.
4. Where can I see the questions for the Student Survey?
 - Starting on February 1, a link to the survey questions will be posted on this page to view, and a paper copy of the questions will be available in your school's front office to view. The student survey this year will open on March 2.
5. Does my child need my permission to take the 2020 Panorama Student Survey?
 - No, but you can choose to opt out your student (see question 6). If the school does not hear from you, your student is expected to take the survey.
6. How can I opt my child out of the 2020 Panorama Student Survey?
 - Notifications and opt-out forms will be sent home with students in February 2020. You can sign the opt-out form and return it to the school.
 - If it is February 26 or later and you have not received an opt-out form for the student survey, please contact your child's school. We will also post the opt-out form on this page starting on February 3. You can print it and send it to school with your child.
7. 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 so schools and the district can analyze whether results are different for different groups and provide targeted support.
8. Who can I contact with questions?
 - The best person to talk to is your school's survey liaison. The school front office can point you to the right person. If you still have questions after talking to the school liaison, email panoramasurvey@k12.dc.gov.