

2010-2011 AISD Student Climate Survey Cowan Elementary School

Research indicates that school climate can either be a positive influence on students' learning environment, or can serve as a significant barrier to students' learning. Indeed, elementary school teachers in Austin Independent School District (AISD) whose students provided positive ratings of behavioral environment, teacher support, adult fairness and respect, and academic self-confidence had students who made greater growth on TAKS in 2009-2010 than did their peers whose students rated school climate less favorably.*

The following tables show the total number of surveys students at Cowan returned in 2010-2011 (Table 1) and the response rate by grade for students at Cowan (Table 2).

	Cowan	All Elementary Schools
# of surveys returned	324	17,641
# of students	352	20,160
% of students represented	92%	88%

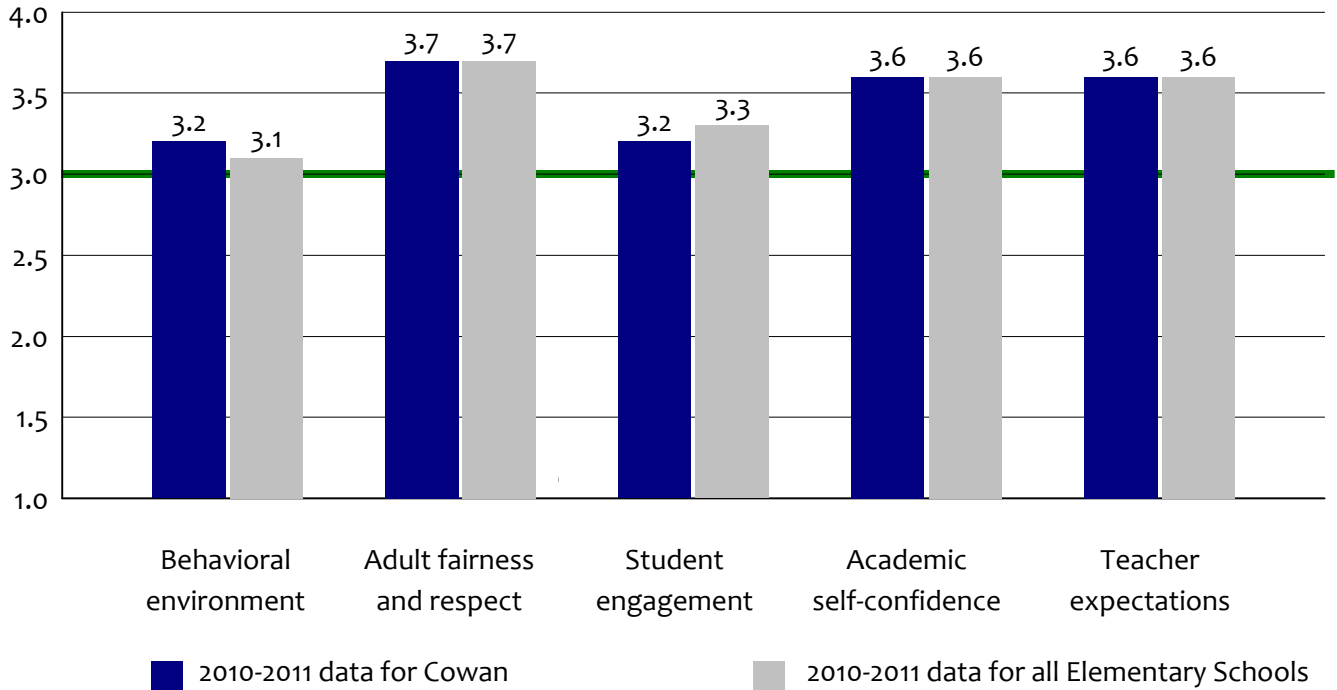
grade	# of students	# of responses	response rate
3rd grade	121	114	94%
4th grade	117	108	92%
5th grade	114	102	89%
6th grade	n/a	0	0%

Note. Students' grade level was self-reported. Population data reflect enrollment as of the PEIMS snapshot date in October 2010.

*For the full report, please see:
http://archive.austinisd.org/inside/docs/ope_09-82_Teacher_Effectiveness_Issue4_Student_Climate.pdf

Figure 1 depicts Cowan's average student climate survey ratings for 2010-2011, compared with average ratings across all Elementary Schools in 2010-2011. Scores over 3.0 are desirable, as indicated by the green line. Please note the green and red text boxes that highlight the specific area in which Cowan most excels, as well as the area in which Cowan can improve most.

Figure 1. Student Climate Survey Subscales for Cowan and all Elementary Schools, 2010-2011



Cowan's highest score on the 2010-2011 Student Climate Survey was for adult fairness and respect, which assesses the way teachers and other adults at your campus treat students. Research suggests that high levels of adult fairness and respect contribute to academic achievement. We encourage you to consider the ways your campus supports a respectful environment and share your best practices with others.

Cowan's lowest score on the 2010-2011 Student Climate Survey was for behavioral environment, which measures the extent to which students respect each other, follow the rules, and feel safe at your campus. Higher ratings of behavioral environment have been associated with academic achievement. For resources on how to improve your campus' behavioral environment, please visit AISD's Child Study System website: <http://www.childstudysystem.com>

The following pages contain more detailed information regarding Cowan's student climate results from 2008-2009 to 2010-2011. Please review the individual items on each subscale with particular attention to how Cowan's average ratings have changed or remained consistent over time. Please note that some subscales have changed from previous years, making longitudinal comparisons inappropriate for some items and subscales. For items and subscales where longitudinal data are available, statistically meaningful changes are flagged with up or down arrows. Please share the results of this report with all campus staff and your Campus Advisory Council to inform campus improvement planning.

Behavioral environment	Cowan			All Elementary Schools, 2010-2011
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	
1. My classmates show respect to each other.	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
2. My classmates show respect to other students who are different.	3.1	3.0	3.2↑	3.1
3. I am happy with the way my classmates treat me.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
13. Students at my school follow the school rules.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
14. I feel safe at my school.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
15. I feel safe on the school property.	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6
29. My classmates behave the way my teachers want them to.	n/a	n/a	2.8	2.8
30. Our classes stay busy and do not waste time.	n/a	n/a	3.0	3.1
Behavioral environment average	n/a	n/a	3.2	3.1

Note. Response options ranged from 1 = *never* to 4 = *always*. It is desirable to have a response of at least 3.0. Subscale comparisons across years are no longer available due to the addition of items 29 and 30, which are from the *Control* subscale of the Tripod survey. The Tripod survey was developed by Ron Ferguson and has been administered to schools across the country over the last decade. The Tripod survey was used in the Gates Foundation's Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Project. The survey is designed to assess the degree to which students agree with a variety of statements designed to measure the following dimensions: caring, captivating, conferring, controlling, clarifying, challenging, and consolodating. For more information, please visit: <http://www.metproject.org/partners#cambridge>. Response options for the Tripod items were changed to reflect the 1 = *never* to 4 = *always* scale.

Adult fairness and respect	Cowan			All Elementary Schools, 2010-2011
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	
4. Teachers at this school care about their students.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
5. Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions.	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5
6. Adults at this school treat all students fairly.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
7. The staff in the front office show respect to students.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8
8. There is at least one adult at my school who I would go to if I have a problem.	3.5	3.5	3.7↑	3.6
10. The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for everyone.	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5
11. My teachers always make sure the students follow the rules.	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8
12. My teachers believe I can learn.	n/a	3.6	3.9↑	3.9↑
20. My teachers believe I can do well in school.	n/a	3.6	3.9↑	3.9
21. My teachers like to teach.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
27. My teachers are fair to everyone.	3.6	3.4↓	3.5↑	3.6
Adult fairness and respect average	n/a	3.6	3.7↑	3.7

Note. Response options ranged from 1 = *never* to 4 = *always*. It is desirable to have a response of at least 3.0.

Student engagement	Cowan			All Elementary Schools, 2010-2011
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	
9. I like to come to school.	n/a	3.1	3.2	3.2
17. I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1
24. My homework helps me learn the things I need to know.	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5↑
25. My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	3.2	3.0↓	3.2↑	3.3
26. I have fun learning in my classes.	3.2	3.2	3.3↑	3.4
28. My teachers connect what I am doing to my life outside the classroom.	3.1	2.9↓	3.1↑	3.2
Student engagement average	n/a	3.1	3.2↑	3.3

Note. Response options ranged from 1 = never to 4 = always. It is desirable to have a response of at least 3.0.

Academic self-confidence	Cowan			All Elementary Schools, 2010-2011
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	
16. I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6
18. I feel/felt well prepared for TAKS.	3.6	3.5	3.8↑	3.6
19. I try hard to do my best work.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
22. I feel successful in my schoolwork.	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5
23. I can reach the goals I set for myself.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Academic self-confidence average	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6

Note. Response options ranged from 1 = never to 4 = always. It is desirable to have a response of at least 3.0.

Teacher expectations	Cowan	All Elementary Schools, 2010-2011
	2010-2011	
33. My teachers push us to think hard about things we read.	3.6	3.6
34. My teachers push everybody to work hard.	3.7	3.6
35. We have to think hard about the writing we do.	3.6	3.7
36. My teachers accept nothing less than our full effort.	3.7	3.7
Teacher expectations average	3.6	3.6

Note. These items were new to the 2010-2011 student climate survey and are based on the Challenge subscale from the Tripod survey. Response options for these items have been changed to be on a 1 = never to 4 = always scale. It is desirable to have a response of at least 3.0.

37. I will go to college after high school.	Cowan			All Elementary Schools, 2010-2011
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	
% Yes	n/a	n/a	83%	78%
% No	n/a	n/a	1%	1%
% Maybe	n/a	n/a	16%	21%