

NYC SCHOOL SURVEY – STUDENT SURVEY DEFINITIONS GUIDE

The goal of the NYC School Survey is to collect important information about each school’s ability to support student success. Whenever possible, students should complete the survey independently without assistance from proctors or other school staff. When necessary, proctors are permitted to provide students with definitions to words that appear in the survey. Below is a definitions guide that offers some definitions to words commonly found on the survey. The definitions and examples are from the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, which is an advanced learner's dictionary, providing definitions using a restricted vocabulary, helping non-native English speakers understand meanings easily. It is available in four configurations:

<u>WORD</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>	<u>SENTENCE EXAMPLES</u>	<u>QUESTION NUMBERS IN STUDENT SURVEY</u>
Culture	The beliefs, way of life, art, and customs that are shared and accepted by people in a particular group.	We speak Danish at home so that the boys don’t lose touch with their language and culture.	3, 5, 8, 10, 46, 75
Background	Someone’s family, education, previous work etc.	It’s important to understand other people, people from different backgrounds.	4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 46, 75
Identity	A strong feeling of belonging to a particular group, race etc.	Our strong sense of national identity has been shaped by our history.	10, 13, 63
Gender identities	Expected behaviors and characteristics of girls, boys, non-binary people, or other genders. Gender is not biological. People’s genders don’t always match their sex assigned at birth.	In health class, we learn more about gender identities.	
Gender expressions	Gender expression is the way in which a person communicates about their	In health class, we learn more about gender expression.	

	gender to others, typically through their appearance, dress, and/or behavior.		
Productive	Completing or progressing on your work or goals.	The student was productive within the hour as they finished all of their homework.	
Meaningful	Serious, important, or useful.	They want a chance to do meaningful work.	3, 4
Satisfied	Feeling that something is as good as it should be, or that something has happened in the way that you want.	They have plenty of satisfied customers.	15, 16
Hopeful	Believing that what you hope for is likely to happen.	The student was hopeful that they would be assigned their favorite teacher for math class.	
Expectations	What you think or hope will happen.	The current level of economic activity will certainly influence business expectations and confidence.	28, 52
Purposeful	Having a clear aim or purpose.	a purposeful and consistent foreign policy	29
Feedback	Advice, criticism etc about student work.	Try to give each student some feedback on the task.	31
Interact	If people interact with each other, they talk to each other, work together etc.	Lucy interacts well with other children in the class.	32
Confide	To tell someone about something very private or secret, especially a personal problem, because you feel you can trust them	He confided to his friends that he didn't have much hope for his marriage.	38
Resolved	To find a satisfactory way of dealing with a problem or difficulty.	The crisis was resolved by negotiations.	47
Encourage	To give someone the courage or confidence to do something.	Cooder was encouraged to begin playing the guitar by his father.	21, 48, 53, 72, 75

Reflection	Careful thought, or an idea or opinion based on this.	At first I disagreed, but on reflection (after thinking carefully about it), I realized she was right.	48
Harass	To make someone's life unpleasant, for example by frequently saying offensive things to them or threatening them.	Mr. A harassed Mr. B by repeatedly making hurtful remarks after Mr. B asked him to stop.	61, 62, 63, 64, 65
Intimidate	To frighten or threaten someone into making them do what you want.	The boss is quite tough, but don't let him intimidate you.	61, 62, 63, 64, 65

The survey is designed to collect important information about each school's ability to support student success. Our goal is to ensure that the language on the survey is as accessible as possible. If there are additional words on the survey that are not accessible to your students, or your students frequently ask for clarifications on, please let us know by completing [this form](#). Please email Surveys@schools.nyc.gov with questions, comments, or concerns.