

both the student and teacher why. The school administration needs to know if there is a problem with students not doing homework or teachers not giving it/correcting it.

## 11. School Climate Survey

This tool can be used to develop an action plan, to plan activities for staff and families, and to set priorities for the school improvement team, school council, or other committees.

Dear Families:

We want our school to be the best it can be. Please fill out this survey and tell us what you think are the school's strong points and what you think could be better. Your comments and ideas will be very welcome. If you would like to help tally and analyze the results, please let us know.

—The Family and Community Involvement Action Team  
[list names and contact information]

### Caring Environment

1. When I walk into this school, I feel welcome.  
 Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never
2. I am treated with respect at this school.  
 Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never
3. This school respects my cultural heritage.  
 Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never
4. Students at my child's school are treated fairly no matter what their race or cultural background.  
 Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never

**Tools to Support**

**Your Work**

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5. I feel welcome at PTA/parent group meetings.
- Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never

### **Problem Solving**

6. I have a good working relationship with my child's teacher.
- Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never
7. I can talk to the school principal when I need to.
- Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never
8. This school has a clear process for addressing my concerns.
- Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never
9. If the school can't help me, I know they will refer me to someone who can.
- Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never

### **Communication**

10. My child's teacher lets me know right away if my child is having a problem with (circle all that apply):

Behavior  
Fitting in with other students  
Homework  
Special projects  
Tests

11. It's easy to get a translator if I need one.
- Always     Almost always     Sometimes  
 Rarely     Never

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12. Staff at my child's school consult me and other families before making important decisions.

- Always       Almost always       Sometimes  
 Rarely       Never

13. I understand the rules and requirements about student dress, language, and behavior.

- Always       Almost always       Sometimes  
 Rarely       Never

### Student Progress

14. My child's teacher keeps me well informed about how my child is doing in school.

- Always       Almost always       Sometimes  
 Rarely       Never

15. I understand the standards my child is supposed to meet.

- Always       Almost always       Sometimes  
 Rarely       Never

16. My child's teacher and the school give me useful information about how to improve my child's progress.

- Always       Almost always       Sometimes  
 Rarely       Never

17. At this school, students feel challenged to do their best.

- Always       Almost always       Sometimes  
 Rarely       Never

### Satisfaction

18. I am very satisfied with the quality of this school.

- Always       Almost always       Sometimes  
 Rarely       Never

19. I would recommend this school to family and friends with children.

- Always       Almost always       Sometimes  
 Rarely       Never

**Tools to Support  
Your Work**

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What grade is your child in? List all if you have more than one child in the school. \_\_\_\_\_

My child is (check only one box):

- African American
- Asian American
- Caucasian/White
- Latin American/Hispanic
- Native American
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the school doing that is most helpful to you as a parent?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Share one thing that you wish the school would do to improve the learning experience for you and your child. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your participation.

Please return this survey to:

This survey is adapted from one used in Alexandria, Virginia, public schools in 2003. It was developed by Karen Parker Thompson, coordinator of family involvement and community resources for the Alexandria City Public Schools, Anne T. Henderson, and Scott Broetzmann of Customer Care Management and Consulting.

## 12. Tips for Developing a School Family Involvement Policy

A policy commits a school to certain goals and actions. A family involvement policy describes effective partnership between the school and its families, and lays out how and when that will happen and who will do what.

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