



Tell Them From Me student survey

Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students. The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights from the student point of view at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions relate to the following 18 measures for **primary schools**:

Participation in sports	Behaviour at school	Effective learning time
Participation in extra-curricular activities	Homework behaviour	Teaching relevance
Sense of belonging	Interest and motivation	Teaching rigour
Positive relationships	Effort	Experience of being bullied
Valuing school outcomes	Skills and learning challenge	Advocacy at school
Positive teacher student relations	Expectations for success	Positive learning climate

The survey questions relate to the following 22 measures for **secondary schools**:

Participation in sports	Homework behaviour	Expectations for success
Positive learning climate	Participation in clubs	Behaviour at school
Experience of being bullied	Truancy	Sense of belonging
Interest and motivation	Effective learning time	Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE
Positive relationships	Effort	Teaching relevance
Wellness	Valuing school outcomes	Positive learning climate
Teaching rigour	Advocacy at school	Advocacy outside school
Positive teacher student relations	—	—

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your child's school has decided to participate.



4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, *The Learning Bar*. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

6. Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student's information.

7. Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the Department's Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide

analysis. Individual students' data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. No student will be identified in any publication. No school will be identified unless they have given permission.

8. What sort of analysis will be done of the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders can use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school. CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the Department, including performance data.

The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE's analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department's continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

9. Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate. Secondary schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

10. When will the *Tell Them From Me* survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools at the end of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3.



What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales. CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is *The Learning Bar*?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys for both primary and secondary students. Its survey, *Tell Them From Me*, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada's ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years. Australian schools have been participating in the *Tell Them From Me* surveys since 2012.

The Learning Bar is led by Dr J Douglas Willms. Dr Willms is a Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick, and holds the Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. Dr Willms led the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

For purely administrative purposes, The Learning Bar will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than The Learning Bar and CESE researchers within the Department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

More information about *The Learning Bar* is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 9561 8056 / 9561 8370.