

Virginia Teacher Survey

Background Statement

On February 23, 2000, Kirk T. Schroder, president of the Virginia Board of Education, and Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary, acting superintendent of public instruction, announced a proposed school index (which was later renamed "school profile") to be included on the School Performance Report Card. At the March 23 meeting of the Board of Education, a teacher survey was approved to be a component of the school profile.

Purpose:

The purpose of the teacher survey component of the school profile is to provide patrons with a context for reviewing other data on the report card. A critical factor in assessing a school's performance is the level of support provided for teachers to implement the Standards of Learning (SOL). Teachers' perceptions of this level of support will be measured by a statewide survey that will provide teachers in each school with a unique opportunity to agree or disagree that certain conditions, confirmed by research as necessary for effective instruction, are present.

Development Process:

The process used in developing teacher survey items was both inclusive and research-based. The potential elements to be included on the teacher survey portion of the school profile were generated by members of an Ad Hoc committee. The committee was chaired by Ms. Susan Noble, vice president of the Board of Education, and consisted of representatives of the commonwealth's teachers, principals, superintendents, parents, and colleges. The elements were used to develop survey items which have been correlated to the research on effective schools as well as to the expectations for principals and teachers outlined in Virginia's accreditation standards for schools. The proposed items were developed by Department of Education staff, reviewed by the committee members, examined and critiqued by the Survey Research Center at Virginia Commonwealth University, and field-tested with a pool of teachers selected by the Virginia Education Association. The survey will be offered to Virginia's 87,000 teachers this spring. The survey will contain a teacher feedback component regarding the survey.

Implementation Process:

In May, each teacher will be provided with a Personal Identification Number (PIN) and a password by his/her principal that authorizes the teacher's access to a Web site containing the survey. The PIN numbers and passwords, one for each teacher, which will be unique to each division, school, and teacher, will be generated by a third-party consulting firm. The PIN numbers and passwords will help ensure anonymity. The consulting firm will host the survey Web site and will summarize all data before providing the information to the department.

By mid-May, teachers will be able to log on to a designated Web site that can be accessed from an Internet-connected computer with a Web browser such as Netscape. Teachers who wish to access the survey via home Internet access through a commercial Internet Service Provider (ISP) also will be able to do so. The survey will consist of approximately 20 statements with responses varying from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree." The survey should take only a few minutes to complete.

No personal information will be requested on the survey. The Web site will be open to teachers from mid-May to mid-June for their responses. Responses will be solicited from all teachers, including itinerant teachers who will respond from the school designated as their "home school" or the school where they spend the majority of their time.

Use of Results:

The individual responses of survey items will be compiled into clusters and reported on the School Performance Report Card under broad indicators.

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