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Dear Parent/Guardian,

As parents and educators we know that learning is a social endeavor and as such the social conditions in which students learn account greatly for how much and how well they learn. The purpose of this letter is to announce we will be administering a survey that will measure the conditions for learning in District 86 by asking for honest feedback from those with direct knowledge about our schools: the students, parents and faculty. This survey will focus on issues ranging from student safety, to positive student relationships, to whether students have enough resources in their schools. This is your chance to make your voice heard, and we are eager to listen.

All schools in Illinois administer learning conditions surveys on a biennial basis, as required by Senate Bill 7. Two years ago, Hinsdale District 86 administered the *Illinois 5Essentials Survey*. This year, Public Act 98-0647 was passed. It allows school districts the option of selecting an alternative assessment from a pre-approved list provided by the State Superintendent. Hinsdale District 86 has chosen this option and will be using a top-rated survey called the *Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI)* in place of the *5Essentials Survey*. The CSCI, designed by the National School Climate Center, was thoroughly vetted at the state level, independently evaluated by reputable entities, and reviewed by District 86 leaders, who are confident that this assessment tool will yield reliable, valid, and useful information for our school improvement efforts.

Participation in the survey is confidential and voluntary. The survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete. You and your child/children will not provide your name, birth date, or any other identifying information, and all questionnaires will be private. No one at our schools or in our district will review any of the completed surveys. CSCI will generate school-level reports from parent, student, and staff responses to the survey. Data from these reports will be sent to the Illinois State Board of Education and will be included in each school's report card that is publicly released at the end of October 2015.

In February and March, students will be taking the online, anonymous survey through their Physical Education classes at Hinsdale Central and through their English classes at Hinsdale South. The final report will present findings by the total student body, by grade, and by gender with no individual student data reported. Student participation is entirely voluntary, and participants need not respond to all items. Students' grades will not be affected if they choose not to participate. If you wish to view a sample of the student survey, please contact your school's Principal. **(NOTE: If you do not want your student to take the survey, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the school.)**

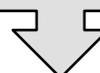
Parent/guardian observations and perceptions matter to us, too. You can easily access the secure, online parent survey by signing into Home Access Center (HAC), using your parent log-in and password. You are invited to take the survey through March 13, 2015. Contact your building Principal if you need assistance with logging on to HAC or if you prefer to take the survey in paper form.

We hope you and your student(s) participate in *Comprehensive School Climate Inventory* to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in Hinsdale District 86. Together, we can support a world-class education that provides students with a safe environment in which to thrive intellectually, socially, and emotionally as they gain the knowledge and 21st century skills required to succeed in college, career and the real world. We look forward to your feedback and thank you for taking the time to share it with us!

Sincerely,

Dr. Bruce Law, Superintendent

For more information about the  
*Comprehensive School Climate Inventory* and *National School Climate Center*,  
please visit <http://www.schoolclimate.org/climate/csci.php> and read the next page.



The *Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI)* is one of the nation's most scientifically sound and helpful surveys that provides immediate feedback on how students, parents, and staff perceive their school's particular climate for learning. The survey assesses four major areas of school climate: **Safety, Relationships, Teaching and Learning** and the **External Environment**. The social, emotional, civic, and intellectual information provided by the survey data will provide a foundation for a five-stage school climate improvement process, which seeks to achieve these goals:

1. The school community has a shared vision and plan for promoting, enhancing and sustaining a positive school climate.
2. The school community sets policies specifically promoting (a) the development and sustainability of social, emotional, ethical, civic and intellectual skills, knowledge, dispositions and engagement, and (b) a comprehensive system to address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage students who have become disengaged.
3. The school community's practices are identified, supported and prioritized to (a) promote the learning and positive social, emotional, ethical and civic development of students, (b) enhance engagement in teaching, learning, and school-wide activities; (c) address barriers to learning and teaching and reengage those who have become disengaged; and (d) develop and sustain an appropriate operational infrastructure and capacity building mechanisms for meeting this standard.
4. The school community creates an environment where all members are welcomed, supported, and feel safe in school: socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically.
5. The school community develops meaningful and engaging practices, activities and norms that promote social and civic responsibilities and a commitment to social justice.



Should you have any questions or concerns related to the *Comprehensive School Climate Inventory*, feel free to contact Mrs. Pamela Bylsma, Assistant Superintendent for Academics at 630-655-6107 or to email her at [pbylsma@hinsdale86.org](mailto:pbylsma@hinsdale86.org).