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 at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW pilot project is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey will ask students questions about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in Sports</th>
<th>Homework Behaviour</th>
<th>Expectations for Success</th>
<th>Positive Learning Climate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Clubs</td>
<td>Behaviour at School</td>
<td>Experiences of being Bullied</td>
<td>Truancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sense of Belonging</td>
<td>Interest and Motivation</td>
<td>Effective Learning Time</td>
<td>Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE</td>
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<td>Positive Relationships</td>
<td>Effort</td>
<td>Teaching Relevance</td>
<td>Feelings of worry or sadness</td>
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<td>Valuing school outcomes</td>
<td>Skills and learning challenge</td>
<td>Teaching Rigour</td>
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<td>Advocacy at school</td>
<td>Advocacy outside school</td>
<td>Positive Teacher-Student Relations</td>
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How have schools been selected to take part?

One hundred and seventy-two NSW secondary and central schools participated in the first phase of this pilot project last year. These schools were invited to participate in a second survey in Term 1, 2014 and your school has taken up this offer.

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 identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.
What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes around 25 minutes and is conducted entirely online. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is voluntary. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. He/she can stop the survey at any time.

Will my child be identifiable 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 and where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed.

A small group of staff in the Department’s Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to survey 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. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any publication or analysis of the data.

What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within two business days. School leaders may use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school.

CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the data. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student performance. 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.

Can all school students participate in the survey?

Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

When will the Tell Them From Me survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools between Monday 10 March and Friday 11 April 2014 (Weeks 7 – 11 of Term 1).

What is the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE)?

CESE is part of the Department of Education and Communities, within the Office of Education. It has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in NSW.

CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all education sectors.

www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is The Learning Bar?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys. 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.

The Learning Bar has conducted surveys in Australia before, with schools helping to adapt surveys to ensure they are appropriate to an Australian context.

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

Contact Details

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