Date / / 2009

Month Day

## SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE


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## Core B Consortium

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This questionnaire asks for information including:

- The structure and organization of the school;
- The student body and teachers;
- The school's resources;
- The school's instruction, curriculum and assessment;
- The school climate;
- The school policies and practices;
- The characteristics of the principal or designee.

This information helps illustrate the similarities and differences between groups of schools in order to better establish the context for students' test results.

The questionnaire should be completed by the principal or designee. It should take about 30 minutes to complete.

For some questions, specific expertise may be needed. You may consult experts to help you answer these questions.

If you do not know an answer precisely, your best estimate will be adequate for the purposes of the study.

Some questions ask about 10th grade or 10th graders. If you do not have a 10th grade in your school, then answer these questions for the grade in your school that contains the most 15-year-olds.

Your answers will be kept confidential. They will be combined with answers from other principals to calculate totals and averages in which no one school can be identified.

## SECTION A: THE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL

Q1 Do you have the following grade levels in your school?
(Please check one box in each row)
Yes
No
a) Grade 1
b) Grade 2
c) Grade 3
d) Grade 4
e) Grade 5
f) Grade 6
g) Grade 7
h) Grade 8
i) Grade 9
j) Grade 10
k) Grade 11

1) Grade 12
m) Ungraded school

$\square$

$\square$
$\square$

## Q2 Is your school a public or a private school?

(Please check only one box)
A public school $\square$

A private school

Q3 About what percentage of your total funding for a typical school year comes from the following sources?
(Please write a number in each row. Write 0 (zero) if no funding comes from that source.)
a) Government (includes local, state and federal)
b) Tuition, student fees, or school charges paid by parents
c) Benefactors, donations, bequests, sponsorships, parent fundraising
d) Other

## Q4 Which of the following definitions best describes the community in which your school is located?

## (Please check only one box)

A village, hamlet or rural area (fewer than 3,000 people)

A small town (3,000 to about 15,000 people)

A town (15,000 to about 100,000 people)

A city (100,000 to about 1,000,000 people)

A large city (with over 1,000,000 people)

Q5a We are interested in the options parents have when choosing a school for their children.

Which of the following statements best describes the schooling available to students in your location?
(Please check only one box)
There are two or more other schools in this area that compete for our students.

There is one other school in this area that competes for our students.

There are no other schools in this area that compete for our students.

Q5b Other than your school, how many public and private schools in this area compete for your students?
(Please write a number in each line. Write 0 (zero) if there are none.)
a) Number of public schools:
b) Number of private schools:

## SECTION B: THE STUDENT BODY AND TEACHERS

Q6 As of September 1, 2009, what was the total school enrollment (number of students)?
(Please write a number in each line. Write 0 (zero) if there are none.)
a) Number of boys: $\qquad$
b) Number of girls: $\qquad$

Q7 About what percentage of students in your school repeated a grade, at these levels, last academic year?
(Please write a number in each row. Write 0 (zero) if nobody repeated a grade. Check the 'not available' box if the level does not exist in your school.)
a) The approximate percentage of students repeating a grade at the middle/junior high school level (grades 7-9) in this school last year was:
b) The approximate percentage of students repeating a grade at the high school level (grades 10-12) in this school last year was: $\qquad$

## Q8 About how many students in the 10th grade in your school have a first language that is not English?

(Please check only one box)
$60 \%$ or more

$40 \%$ or more but less than $60 \%$
$20 \%$ or more but less than $40 \%$
$10 \%$ or more but less than $20 \%$

More than $0 \%$, but less than $10 \%$

None $\square$

## Q9 How many of the following teachers are on the staff of your school?

Include both full-time and part-time teachers. A full-time teacher is employed at least $90 \%$ of the time as a teacher for the full school year. All other teachers should be considered part-time.
(Please write a number in each space provided. Write 0 (zero) if there are none.)

Part-time
a) Teachers in TOTAL
b) Teachers fully certified by the state in the main assignment field
c) Teachers with at least a bachelor's degree

## SECTION C: THE SCHOOL'S RESOURCES

The goal of the following set of four questions is to gather information about the student-computer ratio for students in the 10th grade at your school.

Q10a At your school, what is the total number of students in the 10th grade?

Q10b Approximately, how many computers are available for these students for educational purposes?

Q10c Approximately, how many of the computers listed in Question 10b are connected to the Internet/World Wide Web?

Q10d Approximately, how many computers are available for all students in your school for educational purposes?

## Q11 Is your school's capacity to provide instruction hindered by any of the following issues?

(Please check one box in each row)

|  | Not at <br> all | Very <br> little | To some <br> extent | A lot |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| a) A lack of qualified science teachers | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| b) A lack of qualified mathematics teachers | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| c) A lack of qualified English teachers | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| d) A lack of qualified teachers of other subjects | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| e) A lack of library staff | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| f) A lack of other support personnel | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| g) Shortage or inadequacy of science laboratory | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| equipment |  |  |  |  |
| h) Shortage or inadequacy of instructional | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| materials (e.g., textbooks) |  |  |  |  |
| i) Shortage or inadequacy of computers for |  |  |  |  |
| instruction | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| j) Lack or inadequacy of Internet connectivity | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| k) Shortage or inadequacy of computer software | $\square$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |

## SECTION D: SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

Q12 Some schools organize instruction differently for students with different abilities. What is your school's policy about this for students in the 10th grade?
(Please check one box in each row)

For all subjects

For some subjects

Not for any subject



b) Students are grouped by ability within their classes.
$\square_{1}$



## Q13 In this academic year, which of the following activities does your school offer to students in the 10th grade?

## (Please check one box in each row)

a) Band, orchestra or choir
b) School play or school musical
c) School yearbook, newspaper or magazine
d) Volunteer or service activities
e) Book club
f) Debate club or debating activities
g) School club or school competition for foreign language, mathematics or science
h) Academic club (e.g., honor society)
i) Art club or art activities
j) Sports team or sports activities
k) Lectures and/or seminars (e.g., guest speakers such as writers or journalists)

1) Collaboration with local libraries
m) Collaboration with local newspapers
n) School-wide scheduled reading periods


## Q14 Does your school offer any of the following options to students in the 10th grade whose first language is not English?

(Please check one box in each row)
a) These students attend regular classes and receive additional periods of instruction aimed at developing English skills (e.g., reading literacy, grammar, vocabulary, communication).
b) Before transferring to regular classes, these students attend a preparatory program aimed at developing English skills (e.g., reading literacy, grammar, vocabulary, communication).
c) Before transferring to regular classes, these students receive some instruction in school subjects through their first language.
d) These students receive significant amounts of instruction in their first language aimed at developing proficiency in both

 languages.
e) Class size is reduced to cater to the special needs of these students.



## Q15 Generally, in your school, how often are students in the 10th grade assessed using the following methods?

(Please check only one box in each row)
a) Standardized tests
b) Teacher-developed tests
c) Teachers' judgmental ratings
d) Student portfolios
e) $\begin{aligned} & \text { Student assignments/ } \\ & \text { projects/homework }\end{aligned}$
e) Student assignments
projects/homework

Never | $1-2$ | $3-5$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| timesa | timesa |
| year | year | Monthly

More than once a month









$\square$

$\square$ $\square_{2}$ $\square$
$\square$

## Q16 In your school, are assessments of students in the 10th grade used for any of the following purposes?

(Please check only one box in each row)
Yes No
a) To inform parents about their child's progress


b) To make decisions about students' retention or promotion


c) To group students for instructional purposes


d) To compare the school to district, state, or national performance


e) To monitor the school's progress from year to year
f) To make judgments about teachers' effectiveness



$\square$
g) To identify aspects of instruction or the curriculum that could be improved


h) To compare the school with other schools
 $\square_{2}$

## SECTION E: SCHOOL CLIMATE

## Q17 In your school, to what extent is the learning of students hindered by the following phenomena?

(Please check one box in each row)
a) Teachers' low expectations of students
b) Student absenteeism
c) Poor student-teacher relations
d) Disruption of classes by students
e) Teachers not meeting individual students' needs
f) Teacher absenteeism
g) Students skipping classes
h) Students lacking respect for teachers
i) Staff resisting change
j) Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs
k) Teachers being too strict with students

1) Students intimidating or bullying other students
m) Students not being encouraged to achieve their full potential

| Not at | Very <br> all | To some <br> little | $A$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| extent |  |  |  |$\quad$ lot








$\square$





$\square_{1}$

$\square$

$\square$

$\square$

$\square_{1}$


## Q18 Which statement below best characterizes parental expectations towards your school?

(Please check only one box)
There is constant pressure from many parents, who expect our school to set very high academic standards and to have our students achieve them.

Pressure on the school to achieve higher academic standards among students comes from a minority of parents.

Pressure from parents on the school to achieve higher academic standards among students is largely absent.

## SECTION F: SCHOOL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

## Q19 How often are the following factors considered when students are admitted to your school?

(Please check one box in each row)
c) Recommendation of feeder schools
d) Parents' endorsement of the instructional or religious philosophy of the school
e) Whether the student requires, or is interested in, a special program
f) Preference given to family members of current or former students
g) Other





Sometimes














## Q20 In your school, how likely is it that a student in the 10th grade would be transferred to another school because of the following reasons?

(Please check one box in each row)
If students are never transferred, go to Q21.

|  | Not likely | Likely | Very likely |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a) Low academic achievement | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| b) High academic achievement | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| c) Behavioral problems | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| d) Special learning needs | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| e) Parents' or guardians' request | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square \square$ |
| f) Other | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |

## Q21 This set of questions explores aspects of the school's accountability to parents.

(Please check one box in each row)
a) Does your school provide information to parents of students in the 10th grade on their child's academic performance relative to other students in the 10th grade in your school?
b) Does your school provide information to parents of students in the 10th grade on their child's academic performance relative to national or state benchmarks?
c) Does your school provide information to parents on the academic performance of students in the 10th grade as a group relative to

 students in the same grade in other schools?

## Q22 In your school, are achievement data used in any of the following ways?

Achievement data include aggregated school or grade-level test scores or grades, or graduation rates.
(Please check one box in each row)
a) Achievement data are posted publicly (e.g., in the media).
Yes No
b) Achievement data are used in evaluation of the principal's performance.


c) Achievement data are used in evaluation of teachers' performances.

d) Achievement data are used in decisions about instructional resource allocation to the school.
e) Achievement data are tracked over time by an administrative authority (such as a district, state, or federal education agency).

## Q23 During the last year, have any of the following methods been used to monitor the practice of English teachers at your school?

(Please check one box in each row)
Yes No
a) Tests or assessments of student achievement

b) Teacher peer review (of lesson plans, assessment instruments, lessons)

c) Principal or senior staff observations of lessons


d) Observation of classes by other persons external to the school


## Q24 Regarding your school, who has a considerable responsibility for the following tasks?

(Please check as many boxes as appropriate in each row)

|  | Principals | Teachers | School-level governing board | State or local education agency | U.S. <br> Department of Education |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a) Selecting teachers for hire | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ |
| b) Firing teachers | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square \square_{1}$ |
| c) Establishing teachers' starting salaries | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ |
| d) Determining teachers' salary increases | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ |
| e) Formulating the school budget | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ |
| f) Deciding on budget allocations within the school | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ |
| g) Establishing student disciplinary policies | $\square_{1}$ | $\square 1$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square 1$ |
| h) Establishing student assessment policies | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square 1$ |
| i) Approving students for admission to the school | $\square_{1}$ | $\square 1$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ |
| j) Choosing which textbooks are used | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square 1$ | $\square 1$ | $\square_{1}$ |
| k) Determining course content | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ |
| 1) Deciding which courses are offered | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{1}$ |

## Q25 Regarding your school, which of the following bodies exert a direct influence on decision making about staffing, budgeting, instructional content and assessment practices?

(Please check as many boxes as apply)

Area of influence

Staffing Budgeting \begin{tabular}{c}
Instructional <br>
content

 

Assessment <br>
practices
\end{tabular}

a) State or federal education agencies (e.g., state education department)
b) Local education agency or local school board
c) School-level governing board
d) Parent groups
e) Teacher groups
(e.g., staff association, curriculum committees, trade union)
f) Student groups
(e.g., student association, youth organization)
g) External examination boards




 $\square_{1}$

## Q26 Below you can find statements about your management of this school. Please indicate the frequency of the following activities and behaviors in your school during the last school year.

(Please check only one box in each row)

Never
Seldom
Quite often
Very often
a) I make sure that the professional
development activities of teachers are in accordance with the teaching goals of the school.
b) I ensure that teachers work according to the school's educational goals.
c) I observe instruction in classrooms.
d) I use student performance results to develop the school's educational goals.
e) I give teachers suggestions as to how they can improve their teaching.
f) I monitor students' work.
g) When a teacher has problems in his/her classroom, I take the initiative to discuss matters.
h) I inform teachers about possibilities for updating their knowledge and skills.









i) I check to see whether classroom activities are in keeping with our educational goals.
j) I take exam results into account in decisions regarding curriculum development.
k) I ensure that there is clarity concerning the responsibility for coordinating the curriculum.

1) When a teacher brings up a classroom problem, we solve the problem together.
m) I pay attention to disruptive behavior in classrooms.
n) I take over lessons from teachers who are unexpectedly absent.





















## Q27 Approximately what percentage of students at this

 school last year were eligible for free- or reduced-price lunches through the National School Lunch Program?(Please write a number on the line. Write 0 (zero) if there are none.)

Percentage of students eligible

## SECTION G: ABOUT YOU

Q28 Are you female or male?
Female Male


Thank you very much for your cooperation in completing this questionnaire!

