

Fact sheet

Measuring student wellbeing for school improvement

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

Our Plan for NSW Public Education's sense of belonging success measure

In Our Plan for NSW Public Education, one focus area aims to strengthen student wellbeing and development, with the goal that every student is known, valued and cared for. One measure of success for the department to track progress towards this goal is the proportion of students reporting a sense of belonging.

The plan's success measure of sense of belonging consists of 5 survey questions which capture students' connectedness to their school, peers and teachers. The questions focus on the themes of:

- belonging at school
- acceptance
- student voice
- feeling cared for
- feeling encouraged.

This is a refined and simplified measure of sense of belonging to include students' feelings of not just belonging but also of being heard, cared for and encouraged to do well. The summary indicator is reported as a combined measure for students across all participating schools, not for schools individually.



What are schools required to do?

Schools are required to develop a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) and self-assess their wellbeing practices using the School Excellence Framework's wellbeing element. The sense of belonging measure provides insight into the extent to which students feel accepted and valued by their peers and by others at school. Schools can use this measure to prepare a data-informed approach to support their students' wellbeing. Schools should review and select the most appropriate wellbeing data to collect within their own context.

How can I access my school's data?

Results of several key student survey measures, including sense of belonging, are available to school leaders in the [What Works Best Scout report](#). This report is updated after the end of the first survey window each year.

School data for all survey measures, including sense of belonging, can be accessed via the [Tell Them From Me portal](#) (login required). Results for each survey window are typically provided to school leaders within 3 business days of survey closure.

Where can I find more information?

Information on registration, survey windows, survey options and links to school improvement is available on the department's [Tell Them From Me page](#). Further information on the sense of belonging measure can be found on the department's [Making sense of belonging page](#).