

**General Overview (Your summary of background information on this assessment tool)** There are 70 questions in this survey, which are divided up into 8 different categories. The 8 categories are: My School, How Big a Problem, Getting Along with Others, About Me and Others (2 sections), Wrong and Right, and Situations (2 sections). These sections provide a couple sentences of directions, gives a statement, and the student responds with one of four scaled responses or “pass.” In addition, it asks the students first and last name, age (10-12, 13-15, 16-18, 19 or older), ethnicity (although on the example in the CDC it says “religious affiliation, but lists ethnicity as options, I think this is a mistake), grade, gender, number of siblings, birth order, and whether or not the student was born in the US.

**Title:** Student School Survey

**Author/year:** Kirk R. Williams and Nancy G. Guerra in collaboration with The Colorado Trust. Year = 2007

**General Description/Purpose:** This survey is a series of statements allowing students to tell how they think and feel about things in their school. It is important to remind students it is what THEY think, not what other people think. It is a 70-item measure assessing the frequency of bully perpetration, victimization and bystander behavior. Other subscales include social cohesion and trust, perceived peer support, self-esteem, bully-related attitudes, and informal social control.

**Age group/population:** 10 - 17 years old

**Psychometrics (reliability, validity, norm groups):** Cronbach’s alpha: Bully perpetration = 0.73, Moral approval of bullying = 0.93, Social cohesion and trust = 0.84, Perceived peer support = 0/79

**Administration (Your summary of administration details for this tool):** I could not find specific information regarding the administration of this assessment. I even called The Colorado Trust who helped Williams and Guerra develop the assessment tool and they weren’t able to help. Below is my hypothesization and recommendation of how it is/should be administered. I am assuming if it didn’t list a certain way, then no specific instructions are needed.

**Materials required for administration:** The Student School Survey paper copy and a pencil. Or, it could be put on a google form for easier scoring and use of analyzing, in this case, a computer with internet access is needed.

**Administration time/details:** This is given to students in grades 5 - 12. The amount of time it takes would depend on their reading level, both fluency and comprehension. I would estimate that it would take about 30 minutes on average for students to complete.

**Required competency/training for administration:** The person given this survey should be trained in giving assessments. The person should know the importance of not giving leading questions or answers and to stay with the script on the survey to maintain validity and reliability.

**Scoring/Interpretation (Your summary of how to score and interpret this tool):** The Student School Survey employs several response alternatives. Researchers are encouraged to assign item scores as appropriate. Scale scores can be computed either additively or as mean score. They can also be treated as weighted factor scores.

*Individual Scales:*

Social cohesion and trust: Items 1–7 School climate: Items 8–16 Perceived problem of bullying at school: Items 17–22 Bully perpetration: Items 23–26 Bully bystander behavior: Items 27–34 Bully victimization: Items 35–38 Perceived peer support: Items 39–44 Self-esteem: Items 45–52 Moral approval of bullying: Items 53–62 Informal social control: Items 63–70

**Review (Your summary of strengths and weaknesses of this assessment tool):**

**Strengths:** This assessment tool asks questions regarding school climate and beliefs about behavior and self, both have proven to be linked to bullying and aggressive behaviors. *An Analysis of Bullying Among Students Within Schools: Estimating the Effects of Individual Normative Beliefs, Self Esteem, and School Climate* found that preventive interventions must address more than proximal, personal characteristics, such as self esteem. They must also address things such as, the students’ perceived respect from the adults in their school and the feeling that one’s school is a good place to be. This assessment provides information on all these topics, plus more.

**Weaknesses:** The length of this survey can be a problem. While, I think the length offers a variety of questions asked in many ways to show a good picture of the thoughts and feelings of the students, I also know the attention span may be lost while taking this survey which would lead to inaccurate results because students may not even read the questions. I also think the “pass” option should be taken off. I can see many students choosing this option, instead of sharing their true feelings about a certain question and topic.

**Applications (Your ideas of how you could use this tool in your local context):** I am really excited that I learned about this tool, as I plan on bringing this back to my school district to share the questions with our district office. Each year we give surveys to parents, staff and students regarding school climate and safety. This survey asks the right questions that we are wondering about our students. We can use this at our district level to assess our overall student body’s thoughts and feelings to find our strengths and areas of needed growth. As the school counselor, I would break it down on a more individual basis. This tool would help me know my students better because of the in depth questions it asks. This would help me provide primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions appropriately.

**Additional References & Resources (Anything else you would like to share about this tool, additional resource you have found, etc.):** Brian P. Gendron , Kirk R. Williams & Nancy G. Guerra (2011): An Analysis of Bullying Among Students Within Schools: Estimating the Effects of Individual Normative Beliefs, Self Esteem, and School Climate, *Journal of School Violence*, 10:2, 150-164 To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15388220.2010.539166>

Prevalence and Predictors of Internet Bullying Williams, Kirk R. et al. *Journal of Adolescent Health* , Volume 41 , Issue 6 , S14 - S21 To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2007.08.018>