



Dear CBSD Parents and Guardians in Grades 5-12:

Part of our mission as a district is to provide students with skills essential for personal development. Students thrive in environments where they feel a sense of belonging and connectedness.

To help us better understand students' perceptions of acceptance, respect and support in their schools, CBSD will administer the Psychological Sense of School Membership (PSSM) belonging survey to students in grades 5 through 12 during their class periods from Monday, Oct. 28 to Wednesday, Nov. 6.

The survey, which has been used nationally and internationally since 1993, consists of 18 questions and takes about 15 minutes to complete. The results will help us develop and/or expand programs and initiatives that foster a positive and inclusive school culture, further ensuring that all students feel valued and supported. All employees will also have the option to take the survey. Following the administration of the survey, district-wide data will be shared as well as division-wide data (i.e., elementary schools, middle schools, high schools). Building-specific data will be used among our Leadership Team in collaboration with our building principals and staff to action plan for continually improving our students' sense of belonging at each specific school.

Participation is voluntary and anonymous; students will be given the survey unless an opt-out from a parent/guardian is received. **If you wish to opt out your child(ren), you may do so through the [Parent Portal](#) starting on Monday, Oct. 21 at 9 a.m. All opt-outs must be received by 3 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 25.** To opt out, open the Parent Portal and select the "Documents" menu, then select the "PSSM Survey Opt-Out Form." Complete and sign the form online. Please be sure to discuss with your child(ren) that they will not participate in the survey during class. For questions regarding how to complete the form, please email [parentportal@cbsd.org](mailto:parentportal@cbsd.org).

Parents and guardians are able to view the survey before the administration dates by contacting their school's main office to arrange for a time to view the survey. For parents of younger students who will be taking the survey, we recommend you speak to your children about the survey prior to them completing it to ensure they understand it is safe to answer as honestly as possible, and that the survey helps the district make going to school the best experience for all students.

Our district is dedicated to ensuring that every student feels supported and valued. The PSSM survey helps us meet our ongoing commitment to providing an exceptional and holistic educational experience.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Wright  
Director of Pupil Services

## Psychological Sense of School Membership Scale

Circle the answer for each statement that is most true for you.

1) I feel like a part of my school.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
2) People at my school notice when I am good at something.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
3) It is hard for people like me to be accepted at my school.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
4) Other students in my school take my opinions seriously.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
5) Most teachers at my school are interested in me.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
6) Sometimes I feel as if I don't belong in my school.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
7) There is at least one teacher or adult I can talk to in my school if I have a problem.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
8) People at my school are friendly to me.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
9) Teachers here are not interested in people like me.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
10) I am included in lots of activities at my school.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
11) I am treated with as much respect as other students in my school.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
12) I feel very different from most other students at my school.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
13) I can really be myself at my school.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
14) Teachers at my school respect me.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
15) People at my school know that I can do good work.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
16) I wish I were in a different school.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
17) I feel proud to belong to my school.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5
18) Other students at my school like me the way that I am.	Not at all true 1	2	3	4	Completely true 5

Students will NOT be asked to provide their names when completing the survey.

They will be asked to select their gender. They will also be asked to select their race/ethnicity. The following are directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Education: American Indian/ Alaskan Native, Asian, Black, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, White, Other.

Goodenow, C., 1993