

Scoring Key for California School Parent Survey

(2025–26)

WestEd

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CSPS Scoring Key

The California School Parent Survey (CSPS), along with its companion student and staff surveys—the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) and the California School Parent Survey (CSPS)—form the California Department of Education’s California School Climate, Health, and Learning Surveys (CalSCHLS) System. CalSCHLS is the largest, most comprehensive effort in the nation to regularly assess students, staff, and parents at the local level to provide key data on school climate and safety, learning supports and barriers, and stakeholder engagement, as well as youth development, health, and well-being.

The CSPS assesses parent perceptions about the school's learning environment, school climate, student supports, and parent outreach and involvement efforts. Described below is the scoring key for scales in the Core Module (Parent CSPS).

This scoring key documents how scores for the scales are computed. Scale scores are calculated by averaging the percentage of respondents who report select response categories on the survey questions that comprise each scale. For example, a value of 50 on the “Promotion of Parental Involvement” scale means that on average, students report “Strongly agree” on three of the six “Promotion of Parental Involvement” survey questions.

Survey questions, select response categories used to calculate the scale, and the required number of items for each scale are listed in the following tables. Response options of the survey questions and the corresponding numeric codes are listed in the footnotes.

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Core Module

Table 1. Promotion of Parental Involvement Scale

Scale	Response Range
Promotion of Parental Involvement	
Promotion of parental involvement scale questions (<i>requires 5–6 items</i>)	
<i>This school...</i>	
promptly responds to my phone calls, messages, or e-mails.	1–5
encourages me to be an active partner with the school in educating my child.	1–5
actively seeks the input of parents before making important decisions.	1–5
Parents feel welcome to participate at this school.	1–5
School staff treat parents with respect.	1–5
School staff take parent concerns seriously.	1–5

Source of survey questions: Core Module, California School Parent Survey (CSPS).

Notes: Survey response options are “Strongly agree” (1); “Agree” (2); “Disagree” (3); “Strongly disagree” (4); “Don’t know/NA” (5).

Scale is based on average reporting of “Strongly agree.”

Table 2. Communication with Parents about School Scale

Scale	Response Range
Communication with Parents about School	
Communication with parents about school scale questions (<i>requires 4–5 items</i>)	
This school keeps me well-informed about school activities.	1–5
Teachers communicate with parents about what students are expected to learn in class.	1–5
<i>How well has this child’s school been doing the following things during the school year?</i>	
Letting you know how your child is doing in school between report cards. [§]	1–5
Providing information about why your child is placed in particular groups or classes. [§]	1–5
Providing information on your expected role at your child’s school. [§]	1–5

Source of survey questions: Core Module, California School Parent Survey (CSPS).

Notes: Survey response options are “Strongly agree” (1); “Agree” (2); “Disagree” (3); “Strongly disagree” (4); “Don’t know/NA” (5).

[§]Survey response options are “Very well” (1); “Just okay” (2); “Not very well” (3); “Does not do it at all” (4); “Don’t know/NA” (5).

Scale is based on average reporting of “Strongly agree” or “Very well.”

Table 3. Parental Involvement in School Scale

Scale	Response Range
Parental Involvement in School	
Parental involvement in school scale questions (<i>requires 4–5 items</i>)	
<i>Since the beginning of this school year, has any adult in your child’s household done any of the following things at your child’s school?</i>	
Attended a school or class event, such as a play, dance, sports event, or science fair	1–2
Attended a general school meeting, for example, an open house, or a back-to-school night	1–2
Participated in a meeting of the parent-teacher organization or association	1–2
Participated in fundraising for the school	1–2
Served on a school committee	1–2

Source of survey questions: Core Module, California School Parent Survey (CSPS).

Notes: Survey response options are “No” (1) and “Yes” (2).

Scale is based on average reporting of “Yes.”

Table 4. Student Learning Environment Scale

Scale	Response Range
Student Learning Environment	
Student learning environment scale questions (<i>requires 13–16 items</i>)	
<i>This school...</i>	
promotes academic success for all students.	1–5
treats all students with respect.	1–5
gives all students opportunities to “make a difference” by helping other people, the school, or the community.	1–5
provides quality counseling or other ways to help students with social or emotional needs.	1–5
is a supportive and inviting place for students to learn.	1–5
communicates the importance of respecting different cultural beliefs and practices.	1–5
provides instructional materials that reflect my child’s culture, ethnicity, and identity.	1–5
enforces school rules equally for my child and all students.	1–5
has quality programs for my child’s talents, gifts, or special needs.	1–5
is a safe place for my child.	1–5
provides high quality instruction to my child.	1–5
motivates students to learn.	1–5
has teachers who go out of their way to help students.	1–5
has adults who really care about students.	1–5
has high expectations for all students.	1–5
encourages students to care about how others feel.	1–5

Source of survey questions: Core Module, California School Parent Survey (CSPS).

Notes: Survey response options are “Strongly agree” (1); “Agree” (2); “Disagree” (3); “Strongly disagree” (4); “Don’t know/NA” (5).

Scale is based on average reporting of “Strongly agree.”

Table 5. Substance Use Problems Scale

Domain	Response Range
Substance Use Problems	
Substance use problems scale questions (requires 2–3 items)	
<i>Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...</i>	
student tobacco use (cigarette smoking and/or smokeless tobacco such as dip, chew, or snuff)?	1–5
student vaping or e-cigarette use?	1–5
student alcohol and drug use?	1–5

Source of survey questions: Core Module, California School Parent Survey (CSPS).

Notes: Survey response options are “Not a problem” (1); “Small problem” (2); “Somewhat a problem” (3); “Large problem” (4); and “Don’t Know/NA” (5).

Scale is based on average reporting of “Small problem,” “Somewhat a problem,” or “Large problem.”

Table 6. School Disorder Scale

Domain	Response Range
School Disorder	
School disorder scale questions (requires 6–7 items)	
<i>Based on your experience, how much of a problem at this school is...</i>	
harassment or bullying of students?	1–5
physical fighting between students?	1–5
racial/ethnic conflict among students?	1–5
students not respecting staff?	1–5
gang-related activity?	1–5
weapons possession?	1–5
vandalism (including graffiti)?	1–5

Source of survey questions: Core Module, California School Parent Survey (CSPS).

Notes: Survey response options are “Not a problem” (1); “Small problem” (2); “Somewhat a problem” (3); “Large problem” (4); and “Don’t Know/NA” (5).

Scale is based on average reporting of “Small problem,” “Somewhat a problem,” or “Large problem.”