

Positive School Climates

Supporting Success and Wellness for Students and Educators

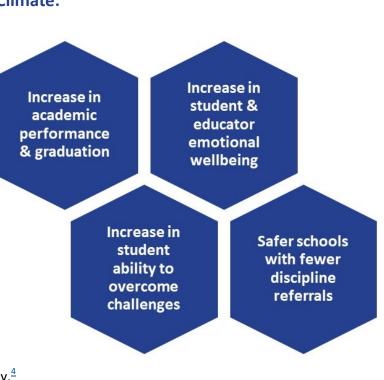
Benefits of Developing a Positive School Climate:

Increase in student academic performance & graduation: Research shows a positive school climate improves a student's ability to learn.¹ Schools with positive school climates observe increases in student math and reading scores and higher graduation rates.¹

Increase in student & educator emotional

wellbeing: School connectedness and feelings of safety and belonging at school are two of the most influential factors associated with student emotional wellbeing.² Likewise, positive relationships with other educators and a supportive work environment protects against educator stress and burnout.³

Increase in student ability to overcome challenges: Students who feel supported and cared about in school report fewer behavioral health concerns, such as feelings of hopelessness, especially during times of challenge or adversity.⁴



Safer schools with fewer discipline referrals: According to the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, creating a safe and connected school climate is the best way to prevent acts of violence from occurring in school.⁵ A positive school climate is protective against bullying and other undesirable student behaviors resulting in fewer discipline referrals and better classroom management.⁶

Components of a Positive School Climate:

Safety

school-related

from violence.

bullying,

controlled

activities where

students are safe

harassment, and

substance use.

Schools and

Engagement

 Strong relationships between students, teachers, families and schools and strong connections between schools and the broader community.

Environment

 Appropriate facilities, wellmanaged classrooms, available schoolbased health supports, and clear, fair disciplinary policy.

Measuring and Monitoring School Climate:

Measuring school climate provides school administrators and staff with a better picture of the school experience of students, families, and school staff. Information gathered through a school climate survey can help identify needs and inform strategies towards creating or maintaining a positive school climate. The U.S. Department of Education offers a <u>free school cli-</u> <u>mate survey</u> that can be administered to students, parents and caregivers, and school staff.

Please visit the <u>National Center on Safe and</u> <u>Supportive Learning Environments</u> to learn more about the benefits and strategies for developing a positive school climate.

The Office of Public Instruction has many resources to assist schools in creating a positive school climate. <u>Please visit our website</u> for more information or reach out to Michele Henson, School Safety Program Manager (michele.henson@mt.gov).