Barometers of School Safety Climate Surveys

One of the most important components of a safe school is a climate where youth feel secure and supported in their learning environment. A student who feels threatened or unsafe at school can't take full advantage of the educational opportunities available. It is important for schools to assess their students' health, relationships, drug and alcohol use and perceptions of safety in order to understand their strengths and challenges. Improvement in the social climate of the school facilitates an improvement in academic performance.

To help schools better understand their school climate, the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) has developed four online school climate surveys called the Barometers of School Safety. These surveys are anonymous and available online currently at no cost to Colorado schools through a secure website. CSPV does not disclose the identity of the schools completing our school climate surveys and we will maintain the confidentiality of your school’s data.

The Barometers of School Safety include:

- **SPARK**  Student Elementary School Climate Survey
- **VOLT**  Student Middle/High School Climate Survey
- **CHARGE**  Administrator/Staff School Climate Survey
- **GRID**  Parent School Climate Survey

Upon completion of a survey, a comprehensive report to the school is generated online that includes summaries of the data as well as response data for individual questions. This report compares individual school results with Colorado and national statistics, where available. CSPV will help schools identify their unique areas of strength and areas of concern or need and issue a school-specific report with information on evidence-based programs, strategies, and best practices to address those needs.
Checklist for Survey Coordinators

Contact CSPV Safe Communities~Safe School Staff at (303.492.1032)
   Sabrina Arredondo Mattson, Ph.D. Project Director
   Danielle Gianola, PRA

Survey Set-Up and Initialization

☐ Choose the optional scales you would like added to the core student survey questions
☐ Return School Survey Agreement
☐ Select dates for the student and staff online surveys (at least 2 months after students return to school)
☐ Reserve computer lab for those dates
☐ Collect demographic information for your school

Pre-Administration Planning

☐ Distribute consent forms to students (as per district policy)
☐ Notify teachers and staff of the student survey dates and add these dates to the master calendar
☐ Work with your IT coordinator to develop a plan for students to access the survey
   o Test the access method
   o Test the survey, making sure the survey displays and functions properly
☐ Prepare school staff for the student survey by going over survey materials, answering questions, and stressing the importance of survey participation
☐ Make arrangements for students not taking the survey

Survey Administration

☐ Remind teachers and staff about the student survey and distribute survey administration materials
☐ Administer the student survey
☐ Administer make-up student surveys

Survey Follow-Up

☐ Notify your CSPV site representative when the surveys are complete so your CSPV Site Representative can authorize your data reports for download
☐ Set meeting/phone call with your CSPV Site Representative to discuss your survey data reports