



School Culture Design

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———— **Top Performing Schools** ————

Great Leadership that balances love and boundaries (warm demanders).

A collaborative staff dedicated to continual improvement and "what if" thinking.

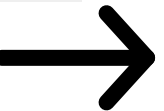
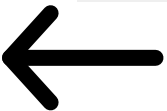
Students who feel a strong connection with their school community.

Celebrations of academic performance on a continual basis.

Building Connection to Improve School Climate



If you moved to a new city and visited three high schools for 30 minutes each, how would you select a school for your own children to attend? What would you look for?



School Climate Questions



01

The "Hi" test

Say hello to students in the hallway.
How do the students respond to you?

02

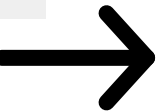
Adults

How many adults in the school walk by a visitor and how many of them greet you or ask you if you need assistance?

03

WOW!

Does the entry have a "WOW!" element? Are your core values evident?



School Climate Questions



04

Media Center

Is the Media Center welcoming?
Are there sofas, decorative plants,
artwork? Does it have a
comfortable atmosphere or does it
feel institutional?

05

Champions

Are pictures of academic
champions as prominent as athletic
champions? Has the school
conducted an academic pep rally in
addition to athletic pep rallies?

06

State Competition

Do any academic, athletic, or
artistic teams make it to the state
competitions throughout the year?
Is there a great balance in
performance and recognition to
academics, athletics, and the arts?
Success in one area helps to foster
success across the board.



School Climate Questions



07

Cafeteria

Is the cafeteria a student-centered gathering spot or does it remind you of the movie set from The Shawshank Redemption? Is the food quality Good, Bad, or Ugly?

08

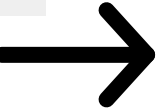
School Colors

Does the school have a strong identity with the mascot and school colors? Are the school colors and mascot obvious within 2 minutes of walking into the school or only if you are walking into the gym?

09

Innovation

Do you see anything innovative? A climbing wall, unique academic offerings, a biology room filled with animals, and/or an art gallery? Have educators from different school districts toured your building because of its great innovations?





Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

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