



Tell Them From Me student survey

Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students. The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights from the student point of view at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions relate to the following measures for **primary schools**:

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities | Behaviour at school | Effective learning time |
| Use of ICT for learning | Homework behaviour | Teaching relevance and rigour |
| Sense of belonging | Interest and motivation | Perseverance |
| Positive relationships | Effort | Experience of being bullied |
| Valuing school outcomes | Skills and learning challenge | Advocacy at school |
| Positive teacher-student relations | Expectations for success | Positive learning climate |

The survey questions relate to the following measures for **secondary schools**:

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities | Homework behaviour | Expectations for success |
| Skills and learning challenge | Academic self-concept | Behaviour at school |
| Experience of being bullied | Truancy | Sense of belonging |
| Interest and motivation | Effective learning time | Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE |
| Positive relationships | Effort | Teaching relevance and rigour |
| Wellness | Valuing school outcomes | Positive learning climate |
| Academic buoyancy | Advocacy at school | Advocacy outside school |
| Positive teacher-student relations | Use of ICT for learning | Perseverance |

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your child's school has decided to participate.



4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, *The Learning Bar*. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

6. Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student's information.

7. Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the department's Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide

analysis. Individual students' data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. No student will be identified in any publication. No school will be identified unless they have given permission.

8. What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders can use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school. CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the department, including performance data.

The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE's analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the department's continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

9. Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these year groups to participate. Secondary schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

10. When will the *Tell Them From Me* survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools at the end of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3/4.



What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the NSW Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales.

CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is *The Learning Bar*?

The Learning Bar specialises in research-based design and facilitation of student assessments and survey solutions for both primary and secondary students. The in-house research team led by the President, Dr J Douglas Willms, undertakes extensive projects used in the school system to affect national policy. It is against this research that the survey, *Tell Them From Me*, has become the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of the ten provinces. Globally, more than 6,300 schools and 5.4 million students have participated in the survey over the last twelve years.

Dr Willms recently held the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. He plays a lead role in the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

For purely administrative purposes, *The Learning Bar* will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than *The Learning Bar* and CESE researchers within the department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

More information about *The Learning Bar* is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: **1300 131 499**.



**Tell Them From Me student survey:
Information and consent form for
parents and carers**

Thursday 7 March, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Term 1 2019, our school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, **The Learning Bar**, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will **not** be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students will **not** be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to the school by **Friday 15 March, 2019**.

More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Jock Graven
Principal
Lake Cathie Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan
Executive Director
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to the school by **Friday 15 March, 2019.**

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the ***Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.***

Name of student 1

Roll class of student 1

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Name of student 2

Roll class of student 2

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Name of student 3

Roll class of student 3

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Name of student 4

Roll class of student 4

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Name of parent/carer

Signature of parent/carer

Date