

What Do Teachers Think About the New Student Surveys?

Results from the Teacher Feedback Survey

In the interest of improving the student survey, a teacher response survey was distributed to all participating teachers after they received their feedback reports. Teachers were asked a variety of topics including how accurate they felt the results were, what they found most and least helpful about the results, and whether or not results will influence their classroom practice in the coming year. A list of key questions and a summary of teacher responses is presented in the sidebar.

A total of 96 teachers have responded to the survey. Responses have yielded several interesting findings regarding how teachers intend to use results, teachers' perceptions of the student survey, and ways that the student survey could be improved to be more accessible to students and more reflective of teacher practice. Each of these topics is discussed below.

How Teachers Intend to Use Student Survey Results

Teachers were asked to describe whether or not the student survey results would influence their teaching in the coming year. Nearly 8 in 10 teachers indicated that the results would change their practice. Planned changes included being more mindful of student needs, targeting PD toward areas indicated as weaknesses, and incorporating more real-world examples in lessons. Teachers that responded that results would not influence their practice often questioned the accuracy of the survey results or felt that they needed more direction about how to improve their weak areas. Several teacher quotes taken directly from the survey responses are shown below.

Will your student survey feedback influence your teaching next year? How? If not, why not?

“My low scores on classroom management and strategy suggest a need for signing up for some in-service classes.”

Teacher Survey Responses

Will your student survey feedback influence your teaching next year? How? If not, why not?

- 79.2% of teachers indicated that the survey feedback will influence their teaching next year.

Did you find the results from your survey helpful?

- 77.1% of teachers indicated that the survey was either Very Helpful or Somewhat Helpful.

Did you find your results to be accurate?

- 75% of teachers indicated that the survey was either Very Accurate or Somewhat Accurate.

“Yes, this information will influence my teaching next year. I will be more aware of adjusting my teaching to give students more opportunities for success. The results from this survey will allow me to pick 1 or 2 areas to concentrate on during my teaching, and also give me concrete examples of behaviors which I can ask my co-workers to observe and assist me in improving my teaching practices.”

Teacher Perceptions of the Student Survey

For the most part, teachers found the results both helpful and accurate. Teachers were presented with reports that outlined their strengths and weaknesses in each of six performance areas as well as in comparison with the average performance of other teachers in their school and district. Many teachers found the graphic presentation of information helpful. They also appreciated seeing both their strengths and weaknesses. Generally, those that stated they did not find the results helpful questioned the accuracy of the results. Teachers were especially hesitant to trust the sampling design of the survey and said that they would have greater confidence in the results if more of their students had been surveyed. However, over 75 percent of teachers found the student survey results to be very or somewhat accurate. The following quotes represent the full range of teacher perceptions of the helpfulness and accuracy of the student survey results

“Yes, my student feedback has already got me thinking of ways to bridge this gap or disconnect I have with my students. I am looking forward to implementing some new strategies and ideas in

Conclusion

Based on the 96 responses to the teacher feedback survey, it seems that the large majority of teachers found the survey both helpful and accurate. Nearly 80 percent of teachers indicated that they would use the feedback from their student surveys to influence their classroom practice, and 77 percent found the survey somewhat or very helpful. Even though some teachers may still have

“I found the strengths and areas of improvement to be most helpful because it allowed me and opportunity to have concrete examples of areas that I can continue to improve whether they are strong or weak.”

doubts about the survey design or process, 3 in 4 found the results to be somewhat or very accurate. Teachers said that they intended to use the survey results to guide their PD choices, influence the content and delivery of lessons, and to better serve their students. Respondents also gave a variety of helpful

suggestions as to how the survey could be improved such as including a “read-aloud” option and giving more feedback on the performance of teachers in comparison to others in the same subject/grade level. Teachers should feel confident that the survey will recognize good teaching and provide relevant, accurate suggestions for improvement. Continued information about the design, reliability, validity, purpose, and content of the student survey should be used to ease any lingering concerns they may have.