

NYC SCHOOL SURVEY – STUDENT SURVEY DEFINITIONS GUIDE

The goal of the NYC School Survey is to collect important information about each school's ability to support student success. Whenever possible, students should complete the survey independently without assistance from proctors or other school staff. When necessary, proctors are permitted to provide students with definitions to words that appear in the survey. Below is a definitions guide that offers some definitions to words commonly found on the survey. The definitions and examples are from the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, which is an advanced learner's dictionary, providing definitions using a restricted vocabulary, helping non-native English speakers understand meanings easily. It is available in four configurations:

| <u>WORD</u> | <u>DEFINITION</u> | <u>SENTENCE EXAMPLES</u> | <u>QUESTION NUMBERS IN STUDENT SURVEY</u> |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| Culture | The beliefs, way of life, art, and customs that are shared and accepted by people in a particular group. | We speak Danish at home so that the boys don't lose touch with their language and culture. | 3, 5, 8, 10, 46, 75 |
| Background | Someone's family, education, previous work etc. | It's important to understand other people, people from different backgrounds. | 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 46, 75 |
| Identity | A strong feeling of belonging to a particular group, race etc. | Our strong sense of national identity has been shaped by our history. | 10, 13, 63 |
| Meaningful | Serious, important, or useful. | They want a chance to do meaningful work. | 3, 4 |
| Satisfied | Feeling that something is as good as it should be, or that something has happened in the way that you want. | They have plenty of satisfied customers. | 15, 16 |
| Optimistic | Believing that good things will happen in the future. | Bankers are cautiously optimistic about the country's economic future. | 24 |

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|---------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Expectations | What you think or hope will happen. | The current level of economic activity will certainly influence business expectations and confidence. | 28, 52 |
| Purposeful | Having a clear aim or purpose. | a purposeful and consistent foreign policy | 29 |
| Feedback | Advice, criticism etc about student work. | Try to give each student some feedback on the task. | 31 |
| Interact | If people interact with each other, they talk to each other, work together etc. | Lucy interacts well with other children in the class. | 32 |
| Confide | To tell someone about something very private or secret, especially a personal problem, because you feel you can trust them | He confided to his friends that he didn't have much hope for his marriage. | 38 |
| Resolved | To find a satisfactory way of dealing with a problem or difficulty. | The crisis was resolved by negotiations. | 47 |
| Encourage | To give someone the courage or confidence to do something. | Cooder was encouraged to begin playing the guitar by his father. | 21, 48, 53, 72, 75 |
| Reflection | Careful thought, or an idea or opinion based on this. | At first I disagreed, but on reflection (after thinking carefully about it), I realized she was right. | 48 |
| Harass | To make someone's life unpleasant, for example by frequently saying offensive things to them or threatening them. | Mr. A harassed Mr. B by repeatedly making hurtful remarks after Mr. B asked him to stop. | 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 |
| Intimidate | To frighten or threaten someone into making them do what you want. | The boss is quite tough, but don't let him intimidate you. | 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 |

The survey is designed to collect important information about each school's ability to support student success. Our goal is to ensure that the language on the survey is as accessible as possible. If there are additional words on the survey that are not accessible to your students, or your students frequently ask for clarifications on, please let us know by completing [this form](#). Please email Surveys@schools.nyc.gov with questions, comments, or concerns.