



NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2025

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND CULTURE

WATCH FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS!



KEY DIFFERENCES:

- **School Climate** is more immediate and perceptible; it can be felt when you walk into the school.
- **School Culture** is deeper and more ingrained, reflecting long-term values and norms.



Newsletter Question:
What is the difference between school climate and school culture?

Email your answer to efaulkender@nkesc.org for a chance to win a prize!



Welcome to our School Climate and Culture Newsletter!

The environment in which students learn and educators teach plays a crucial role in shaping educational outcomes and personal well-being. In this edition, we dive into the concepts of school climate and school culture. You'll discover what these terms mean, how they impact both students and educators, and actionable tips to improve your school's atmosphere.

From fostering respect and inclusion to encouraging open communication, this newsletter aims to provide you with valuable insights and practical strategies. With research-backed information and resources, we are here to support your journey towards creating a positive and thriving school environment.

What are School Climate and School Culture?

School Climate refers to the overall atmosphere of the school, including safety, relationships, teaching and learning practices, and the organizational environment. It is the day-to-day experience of students and staff. A positive school climate is characterized by feelings of safety, support, and engagement.

School Culture, in contrast, encompasses the deeper aspects of the school environment, such as shared values, beliefs, and traditions. It is the underlying principle that shapes how the school operates and interacts. School culture is built over time and reflects the collective attitudes and behaviors of the school community.



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SCHOOL CLIMATE AND CULTURE: IMPACT ON STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

FOR STUDENTS

- **Academic Success:** Research shows that a positive school climate enhances student achievement and motivation (Marzano, 2007).
- **Mental Health:** Supportive environments reduce anxiety and improve emotional well-being.
- **Behavior:** Students in positive climates are less likely to engage in disruptive behavior and more likely to participate in school activities.
- **Well-Being:** According to "Understanding School Climate and Student Well-Being: Results of National Surveys", students in schools with positive climates report higher levels of overall well-being and life satisfaction.

FOR EDUCATORS

- **Job Satisfaction:** Teachers in positive climates report higher job satisfaction and are more likely to stay longer at their jobs.
- **Collaboration:** A strong school culture encourages collaboration among staff, leading to shared best practices and continuous professional growth.
- **Effective Teaching:** Teachers are more effective when they feel supported and valued within their schools.
- **Professional Fulfillment:** Educators working in positive climates experience greater professional fulfillment and are more likely to invest in their professional development.

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- **National School Climate Center**
- **Edutopia: School Culture Articles**
- **Strobel Education: Climate & Culture in Schools**
- **Understanding School Climate and Student Well-Being: Results of National Surveys**

TIPS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL CLIMATE AND CULTURE

- **Promote Respect and Inclusion:** Encourage an environment where every student and staff member feels respected and included. This can be achieved through diversity training and inclusive practices.
- **Encourage Open Communication:** Create multiple channels for transparent communication, including suggestion boxes, regular meetings, and feedback surveys.
- **Celebrate Successes:** Regularly recognize and celebrate both academic and non-academic achievements to build a sense of community and motivation.
- **Professional Development:** Offer ongoing training focused on building a positive school culture, including workshops on teamwork, conflict resolution, and cultural competency.
- **Student Involvement:** Engage students in leadership roles and decision-making processes to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility.
- **Consistent Policies:** Develop and enforce clear, fair policies that promote positive behavior and academic integrity.
- **Supportive Relationships:** Foster strong, supportive relationships among students and staff. Encourage mentorship programs and peer support groups.
- **Safe Environment:** Ensure the school environment is physically and emotionally safe. Implement anti-bullying programs and provide mental health resources.