



School Climate

School climate refers to the values and beliefs that are shared within a school, influencing the interactions between students and staff, and establishing the norms and behaviors that are expected within the school. As one might expect, school climate significantly affects students' mental and physical health, as well as academic engagement and success. In addition, healthy school climates are associated with a variety of favorable outcomes for students. Given the importance of school climate for students' health and well-being, it is critical for school personnel to understand how to create an atmosphere that will benefit all students and facilitate optimal development and learning. Please read the attached information brief to learn more about school climate, including specific ways to assess and improve school climate within your own school ([School Climate Information Brief](#)).

Additional Resources to Help Enhance School Climate

- The **National School Climate Center** is an organization that seeks to promote positive and sustained school climates in schools. Please visit its website at www.schoolclimate.org to access helpful information related to measuring and improving school climate along with relevant research findings and policies. Be sure to also check out the FAQ page that provides several links to school improvement supports including free access to a quarterly newsletter about school climate issues!
- The **National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments** also has a helpful website at <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/school-climate> that is operated and maintained by the American Institutes for Research. This site shares recent research findings regarding several different areas related to school climate (i.e. engagement, safety, environment, etc.), along with resources to help support each area. It also shares additional measurement tools and provides guidance for implementing interventions that aim to improve school climate.
- Please also check out **Ohio's School Climate Guidelines** through the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education. These voluntary guidelines explain how schools can create optimal environments for students and can be accessed at https://saferschools.ohio.gov/content/ohio_school_climate_guidelines.
- **PBISapps** is a site that provides various web-based applications that help make schools safe and more productive places for all students. Of particular relevance is the information that it provides related to a set of school climate surveys. Please visit <https://www.pbisapps.org/About-Us/Pages/Announcing-the-School-Climate-Survey.aspx> to learn more about these surveys and how to administer them in your school.

Free Youth Mental Health First Aid funded through Project AWARE!

Free Youth Mental Health First Aid training provided for community organizations, parent groups, and schools. To schedule a training contact Kathleen Oberlin with the Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success: oberlink2@gmail.com

The Project AWARE Ohio team includes partners in three counties' educational service centers (ESC).

If you are from those local areas and want more information about Project AWARE services, please contact:

Cuyahoga County ESC: Mary Wise; (216) 901-4201; mary.wise@esc-cc.org

Warren County ESC: Vycki Haught; (513) 379-2310; vycki.haught@warrencountyesc.com

Wood County ESC: Angela Patchen; (419) 354-9010 x228; apatchen@wcesc.org

For information about Project AWARE in other regions of the state, please contact:

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