Local School Climate Survey

School-Based Version

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Local School Climate Survey (School-Based Version)

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Two versions of the Local School Climate Survey were developed from GLSEN's National School Climate Survey to be used by local communities. This, the "School-based Version" was developed as a tool to be used to assess a particular school from within. Survey questions and answers reflect this.

Those wishing to use the Local School Climate Survey in a non-school-based capacity should view the "Community-based Version" available, along with the 1999 and 2000 National School Climate Surveys, online at www.glsen.org .

To send copies of results or get more information, please contact:

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1. Survey Usage Guidelines

The Local School Climate Survey provides users with a printer-ready:

- ☐ Participant letter
- ☐ Survey Form

These may be used, according to the guidelines below, to assess your school's climate towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Additionally, this survey asks students questions about their experiences with racist and sexist discrimination and harassment.

1. In exchange for using the Local School Climate Survey (School and Community-based Versions) it is requested that coordinators send GLSEN a copy of the survey results.
2. Due to the number of local surveys potentially being conducted, GLSEN cannot tabulate Local School Climate Survey results for you. However, we're happy to provide you with the method we use. Please e-mail Joe Kosciw (jkosciw@glsen.org) to request more information.
3. GLSEN cannot pay to produce copies of the survey for local use. However, the attached PDF will provide you with a "printer-ready" version of the survey that you may reproduce on your own, provided that it remains intact.
4. The provided GLSEN Local School Climate Survey may be used free of charge, if used in its entirety. The survey may not be amended without expressed permission from GLSEN.
5. Any use of the Local School Climate Survey implies that you have read and agreed to these guidelines.

2. Tips and Considerations

Please see www.glsen.org for the original document, ***Assessing Your School Climate (Section 4a)*** *in* ***The GLSEN Jump-Start****.*

- Depending on your school and school district, you may need additional permission to do a school-wide survey, if that's the route you've chosen. Your administrator will be able to tell you if you need permission from a district representative or your school's parent organization.

- Your school administration may decide that you need parental permission from all participants. There are two types of parental permission that may be required: "active consent" and "passive consent." "Active consent" is when the parent must submit signed permission before their child can participate in the activity (an example of this is a field trip permission slip). "Passive consent" is when the parent is notified that the activity is going to happen, and it is up to the parent to notify the school if they don't want their child to participate. Make sure that you tell the administrator, parents and participants that the survey will be completely anonymous.

- The survey begins with a sample letter that thanks participants for their responses, briefly explains the survey, and directs participants who have questions, want to learn more, or want to talk about their own experiences to the proper resources. It is up to your group to insert the names of the appropriate adult allies in your school. You also should provide the contact information of a community resource for LGBT youth, if one exists in your area, for students who may not feel comfortable talking to someone at school.

Sample Letter for the Local School Climate Survey

Dear Fellow Student,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our School Climate Survey. We appreciate your participation.

The survey contains questions about our school, your background, and your experiences as a victim or observer of bias against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, students of color and female students.

We are doing the survey so that we can determine our school's "climate": how comfortable students of different backgrounds feel in our school, how frequently offensive and hateful language is heard in our hallways, and how common it is for students to experience other forms of harassment. We want to work so that our school is a safe place for everyone. The information from the survey will tell us where our school may need improvement.

This survey is completely anonymous. Please *do not* write your name anywhere on the survey. Because it is anonymous, we hope that you will feel free to be completely honest when answering our questions.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact:

_____	_____
GSA Representative	*GSA Advisor*

If you want to talk with someone about your experiences in school, particularly if you feel unsafe or have been harassed or assaulted, please contact:

_____	_____
GSA Advisor	*School Counselor*

If you want to talk with someone about being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning, please contact:

_____	_____
School's GSA	*School Counselor*
_____	_____
Local LGBT Youth Support Group	*National LGBT Youth Resource*

Local School Climate Survey — Section A

This first set of questions is about homophobic remarks you may have heard at our school. Please circle the answer that best describes your experience at our school.

1.	**How often do you hear the expression "That's so gay," or "You're so gay" in school?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
2.	**How often have you heard other homophobic remarks used in school (such as "faggot," "dyke," "queer," etc.)?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
3.	**How often do you hear these homophobic remarks from other students?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
4.	**Would you say that homophobic remarks are made by:**	Most of the students		Some of the students		A few of the students
5.	**How often do you hear these homophobic remarks from teachers or school staff?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
6.	**How often do you hear homophobic remarks in:**					
	a) Classes	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	b) Hallways	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	c) Bathrooms	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	d) Locker Rooms	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	e) Buses	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	f) Athletic Field/Gym	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	g) Schoolyard or School Grounds	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	h) Cafeteria	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
7.	**When you hear homophobic remarks, how often has a teacher or other school staff person been present?**	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time		Never
8.	**When homophobic remarks are made and a teacher or other school staff person is present, how often does the teacher or staff person intervene?**	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time		Never
9.	**When you hear homophobic remarks, how often does another student intervene?**	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time		Never

Local School Climate Survey — Section B

This next set of questions is about racist remarks you may have heard at our school. Please circle the answer that best describes your experience at our school.

1.	**How often have you heard racist remarks used in school (such as "nigger," "kike," "spic," "gook," etc.)?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
2.	**How often do you hear racist remarks from other students?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
3.	**Would you say that racist remarks are made by:**	Most of the students	Some of the students	A few of the students		
4.	**How often do you hear racist remarks from teachers or school staff?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
5.	**How often do you hear racist remarks in:**					
	a) Classes	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	b) Hallways	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	c) Bathrooms	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	d) Locker Rooms	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	e) Buses	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	f) Athletic Field/Gym	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	g) Schoolyard or School Grounds	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	h) Cafeteria	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
6.	**When you hear racist remarks, how often has a teacher or other school staff person been present?**	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Never	
7.	**When racist remarks are made and a teacher or other school staff person is present, how often does the teacher or staff person intervene?**	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Never	
8.	**When you hear racist remarks, how often does another student intervene?**	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Never	

Local School Climate Survey — Section C

This set of questions is about sexist remarks you may have heard at our school. Please circle the answer that best describes your experience at our school.

1.	**How often have you heard sexist remarks used in school (such as someone being called a "bitch" or comments about girls' bodies or talk of girls being inferior to boys)?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
2.	**How often do you hear sexist remarks from other students?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
3.	**Would you say that sexist remarks are made by:**	Most of the students		Some of the students	A few of the students	
4.	**How often do you hear sexist remarks from teachers or school staff?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
5.	**How often do you hear sexist remarks in:**					
	a) Classes	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	b) Hallways	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	c) Bathrooms	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	d) Locker Rooms	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	e) Buses	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	f) Athletic Field/Gym	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	g) Schoolyard or School Grounds	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
	h) Cafeteria	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
6.	**When you hear sexist remarks, how often has a teacher or other school staff person been present?**	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Never	
7.	**When sexist remarks are made and a teacher or other school staff person is present, how often does the teacher or staff person intervene?**	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Never	
8.	**When you hear sexist remarks, how often does another student intervene?**	Always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Never	

Local School Climate Survey — Section D

This set of questions is about harassment or fights that you may have encountered at our school. For each question, please circle or check the answer that best describes your experience at our school.

1.	**In the past month, how many times have you skipped a class because you felt uncomfortable or unsafe in that class?**	0 times	1 time	2 or 3 times	4 or 5 times	6 or more times
2.	**In the past month, how many days did you not go to school because you felt unsafe at school or on your way to school?**	0 times	1 day	2 or 3 days	4 or 5 days	6 or more days

3. **Do you feel unsafe at our school because of… (check all that apply)**

- ☐ your sexual orientation
- ☐ your race or ethnicity
- ☐ your gender
- ☐ how you express your gender (how traditionally "masculine" or "feminine" you are in your appearance or in how you act)
- ☐ your religion
- ☐ because of a disability or because people think you have a disability

4. **In the past year, how often have you been verbally harassed (name calling, threats, etc.) at our school because of…**

a)	**your sexual orientation?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
b)	**your gender?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
c)	**how you express your gender?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
d)	**your race or ethnicity?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
e)	**because of a disability or because people think you have a disability?**	Frequently	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never