

FAQs on the SC Teacher Working Conditions Survey

+ WHAT IS THE SC TEACHER WORKING CONDITIONS (TWC) SURVEY?

The SC Teacher Working Conditions Survey explores public school and district factors related to educator support and retention. SC TEACHER is charged through Act 185 to conduct the survey on a biannual basis.

It's important to note that the SC Teacher Working Conditions Survey differs from the School Climate Survey as it aims to gain teacher perspectives on working conditions, rather than overall school environment.

+ WHO CAN TAKE THE SURVEY?

Classroom teachers in participating districts will be sent a link to participate in the survey. This includes professional certification positions of special education (itinerant [03], self-contained [06], resource [07]), pre-kindergarten [04], kindergarten [05], classroom [08], and retired teachers returning to teach [09].

SC TEACHER knows the importance of all school perspectives. We will be surveying additional certified staff in future research efforts.

+ WHAT HAPPENS WITH SURVEY RESULTS?

- Broad takeaways are shared in a statewide report to inform policies and practice toward improvement. Responses are confidential, meaning school- and district-level data will be shared only with those respondents and leadership. Teachers are not identifiable by their responses.
- Schools that meet the participation threshold of 50% (with a minimum of 10 teachers responding) receive their results to use for internal strategic planning.
- All participating districts will receive free access to resources to support them through the improvement planning process, such as general data and district- and school-level toolkits.

+ HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE?

The survey should take less than 15 minutes on average to complete. If you need to pause while completing the survey, your answers will be saved for you to start back where you left off.

+ IS THE SURVEY ANONYMOUS?

The survey is confidential, not anonymous. This is only so SC TEACHER can compute a response rate for each school. Raw data will not be shared, and teachers will never be identifiable by their responses.

+ HOW IS THIS SURVEY DIFFERENT FROM THE SC SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY?

There are two big differences between the surveys.

- While the climate survey asks for teacher perceptions of the overall school environment, the SC Teacher Working Conditions Survey seeks to understand teachers' individual perceptions of working conditions.
- School climate information is included as part of accountability measures for schools and districts — Teacher Working Conditions Survey information is not.

+ WHEN IS THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION?

We are requesting district data no later than Jan. 12, 2024. For districts that submit their data, the survey will open on Jan. 29, 2024, and classroom teachers will have until Feb. 16 to complete it.

+ WHEN WILL MY DISTRICT HAVE OUR RESULTS?

Districts and schools meeting the participation threshold (a 50% response rate with a minimum of 10 teachers responding) will receive reports by June 2024. This schedule gives districts time to use their data in planning for the following school year.

+ WHO IS CONDUCTING THE TWC SURVEY?

The TWC Survey is conducted by the South Carolina Teacher Education Advancement Consortium for Higher Education Research (SC TEACHER). SC TEACHER conducts, coordinates, and disseminates high-quality research on teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention in South Carolina. SC TEACHER developed the TWC Survey based on areas outlined in Act 185 and in collaboration with the Recruitment and Retention Task Force.

Please email inquiries to SCTinfo@mailbox.sc.edu.

