WHAT IS CLIMATE? WHAT IS CULTURE?



By: TIFFANY WILSON-PUGH

What is School Climate and What is School Culture?

Although there is no one clear definition, school climate is commonly defined as the "quality and character of school life" The School Climate Council suggests that school climate encompasses the experiences of individuals in the school, including learning and building relationships, while also capturing the collective beliefs and attitudes that are present within a school. School climate is more than one individual's experience; rather, it is an overarching experience or "feel" of the school.

On the other hand, school culture is defined as the shared values, rules, belief patterns, teaching and learning approaches, behaviors, and relationships among or across the individuals in a school. Culture encompasses a school's norms, unwritten rules, traditions, and expectations. These may influence the way people dress to the way they interact with each other. Culture is more deeply ingrained in a school, and therefore may only be altered over a longer period through systematic change in a school's climate.

"Without Struggle, There Is No Progress." Frederick Douglass

SCHOOL CLIMATE & CULTURE

<u>https://youtu.be/BXKREXUyUK4</u>



Excuses
Self Doubt
Fear of Failure
Procrastination
People Pleasing
Fear Of Success
Negative Thinking
Negative Self Talks
Judgement of Others
Negative People In Your Circle



Contrasting Climate with Culture

CLIMATE

Monday versus Friday Attitude or mood of the group Provides a state of mind Flexible, easy to change Based on perceptions Feel it when you come in the door Is all around us The way we feel around here First step to improvement It's in your head

CULTURE

Gives Mondays permission to be miserable Personality of the group Provides a (limited) way of thinking Takes many years to evolve Based on values and beliefs Members cannot feel it Is part of us The way we do things around here Determines if improvement is possible It's in your head

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me."

Erma Bombeck



The 12 Dimensions of School Climate Measured

Dimensions	Major Indicators
Safety	
1 Rules and Norms	Clearly communicated rules about physical violence; clearly communicated rules about verbal abuse, harassment, and teasing; clear and consistent enforcement and norms for adult intervention.
2 Sense of Physical Security	Sense that students and adults feel safe from physical harm in the school.
3 Sense of Social-Emotional Security	Sense that students feel safe from verbal abuse, teasing, and exclusion.
Teaching and Learning	
4 Support for Learning	Use of supportive teaching practices, such as: encouragement and constructive feedback; varied opportunities to demonstrate knowledge and skills; support for risk-taking and independent thinking; atmosphere conducive to dialog and questioning; academic challenge; and individual attention.
5 Social and Civic Learning	Support for the development of social and civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions including: effective listening, conflict resolution, self-reflection and emotional regulation, empathy, personal responsibility, and ethical decision making.
Interpersonal Relationships	
6 Respect for Diversity	Mutual respect for individual differences (e.g. gender, race, culture, etc.) at all levels of the school-student-student; adult-student; adul
7 Social Support—Adults	Pattern of supportive and caring adult relationships for students, including high expectations for students' success, willingness to listen to students and to get to know them as individuals, and personal concern for students' problems.
8 Social Support—Students	Pattern of supportive peer relationships for students, including: friendships for socializing, for problems, for academic help, and for new students.
Institutional Environment	
9 School Connectedness/Engagement	Positive identification with the school and norms for broad participation in school life for students, staff, and families.
10 Physical Surroundings	Cleanliness, order, and appeal of facilities and adequate resources and materials.
Staff Only	
11 Leadership	Administration that creates and communicates a clear vision, and is accessible to and supportive of school staff and staff development.
12 Professional Relationships	Positive attitudes and relationships among school staff that support effectively working and learning together.

LEADERS WITH INFLUENCE GIVE WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE TO. CARE FOR OTHERS. **GROW** CONTINUOUSLY. LIVE AUTHENTICALLY. EMPOWER OTHERS. MANAGE HARDSHIP. SERVE WITH HUMILITY.





https://youtu.be/BnC6IABJXOI

<u>LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM</u> MRS. SHERYL COLEMAN MRS. GINGER RAIFE MS. TIFFANY WILSON-PUGH

Special Thanks, to She</mark>kinah Lee, Ms. Pugh's student teacher from Miles College for extending her assistance with the data input.