

YouthTruth Survey - February 2026 MSD Student Summary

Total Response Rates

4,843 total – Middle (88%), High (67%)

Middle School

Overall: All themes improved slightly from previous years.

Strengths: Belonging & Peer Collaboration is the highest-rated theme at the 45th percentile, with Culture (39th) and Relationships (37th).

Challenges: Engagement at the 25th percentile, it improved +11 points from last year but still remains an area of focus. Pride in schoolwork (-9 vs. median), Readiness for high school (-8 vs. median).

Highlights: Academic Challenge theme improved +7 from last year.

- Students working collaboratively with peers (+6 vs. median)
- Having a trusted adult to talk to (+2 vs. median).
- 6th graders rate consistently higher than peers, in most themes.

High School

Overall: Most themes improved from last year.

Strengths: College & Career Readiness is the highest-rated theme at the 47th percentile. Belonging (43rd), Relationships (42nd), Academic Challenge (41st), and Engagement (40th).

Challenges: Culture is the only theme that declined (- 2 points) and remains the lowest-rated area. Students treating adults with respect: 25% (-13 vs. median). Adults treating students with respect: 53% (-11 vs. median)

Highlights: College & Career Readiness (+16) and Belonging & Peer Collaboration (+15).

- Highest rated question is “I try to do my best in school” (78%).
- 12th graders rate higher than peers on most questions, which is atypical, engagement perceptions usually decline with grade level.

YouthTruth Survey - February 2026 MSD Family Summary

Total Response Rates

2,486 – Elementary (53%), Middle (13%), High (8%)

Elementary School

Overall: Response rate is stronger 53%: 1,923 out of 3,632. This is well above the district and state average for family surveys. All six core themes are at or above the 50th percentile, a positive overall picture. Culture (59th), Relationships (57th), and Communication & Feedback (57th) are the highest-rated themes.

Strengths

- Comfortable approaching teachers about my child's progress: 94% (+9 vs. median)
- Child's learning environment is safe: 88% (+7 vs. median)
- I am proud of my child's school: 86% (+6 vs. median)
- Kindergarten families rate the most positively across all themes.

Challenges

- Comfortable approaching school administration: 84% (-2 vs. median, -9 vs. last year)
- Families included in planning school activities: 65% (-1 vs. median, -5 vs. last year)
- Discipline is fair: 63% (at median, -1 vs. last year)

Middle School

Overall: Response rate remains low at 13%: 320 out of 2,411. All themes improved (+1 to +5 percentile points) except Resources, which remains the lowest-rated theme at the 21st percentile.

Strengths

- School Safety saw the biggest gain (+17).
- Comfortable approaching teachers about my child's progress: 79% (+3 vs. median)
- Teachers treat families with respect: 79% (-1 vs. median, +5 vs. last year)

Challenges

- I feel valued by my child's school: 46% (-13 vs. median)
- Family inclusion in planning (-6%),
- 8th grade families are the lowest-rated, particularly in Engagement (-0.24), Culture (-0.29), and Relationships (-0.24).

High School

Overall: Response rate remains low at 8%: 243 families out of 3,222. School Safety saw the biggest gain, jumping from the 19th to the 42nd percentile (+23). This is the strongest-ranked theme. Communication & Feedback (-7), Culture (-6), and Relationships (-4) all declined from last year.

Strengths

- Teacher approachability (+17%), feeling engaged with child's school (+14%), and sense of empowerment in decision-making (+14%)

- I feel comfortable approaching teachers about my child's progress: 80% (+6 vs. median, +17 vs. last year)
- School has resources to achieve learning goals: 67% (+1 vs. median)

Challenges

- Families included in planning school activities: 29% (-19 vs. median, lowest-rated question)
- I feel valued by my child's school: 42% (-16 vs. median)
- Discipline is fair: 39% (-15 vs. median)