

FAQ's About the CSCI

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Has the CSCI been developed in a scientifically sound manner?

The CSCI was developed over a period of several years, building on theoretical and survey work done in the field of social and emotional education. In 2007, NSCC extensively tested the survey, using factor analysis and structural equation modeling to validate the sub-scales and confirm our theoretical model of school climate. With this data, we were able to determine whether questions grouped in the way we predicted and whether similar patterns existed across schools and groups of students, providing an empirical "seal of approval" for the CSCI.

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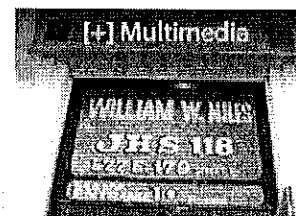
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What is the CSCI?



View Case Study

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How do we administer the CSCI?

NSCC staff will work with your school to develop a CSCI Implementation Plan. We will help you designate a CSCI coordinator to work hand-in-hand with our support team. This coordinator will gain access to the School Climate Resource Center, our customized online portal designed to make the process fluid, straightforward and simple. The Resource Center contains online survey links and support resources such as the administration checklist, best practices, sample form letters, FAQ's, advice from other CSCI coordinators and more. It also contains real-time response rates and a simple calendar that keeps the coordinator updated of the survey administration progress. The survey is typically administered over a 2-week period (online or with paper and pencil).

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What kind of report will we get?

Your school will receive a numerical and a narrative report plus a PowerPoint summary of the report highlights. The are four sections in the report: (1) an overview of school climate and of the report; (2) a narrative and numerical summary that describes how students, school personnel and parents responded to the CSCI factors; (3) recommendations and guidelines; and, (4) detailed numerical findings that show how people responded to every single question in the CSCI. To learn more about the report click [here](#).

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At what grade levels can we use the CSCI with students?

There are two student versions:

Middle and High School: 6th to 12th grade

Elementary School: 3rd to 5th grade

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Does the CSCI come in languages other than English?

Yes. Currently, the CSCI is available in Spanish. Please let us know if you have a need for additional translations.

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How long does it take to take the CSCI?

The CSCI can be completed in a class period. **For Students:** It usually takes 20 minutes for students to complete the CSCI, but may take more time for younger students or students with special needs. **For Adults:** Generally, adults can complete the CSCI in 15-20 minutes. Schools have had success completing the CSCI during faculty or grade level meetings.

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How will you use the demographic data that you request on the survey?

Demographic data is gathered for grade level, gender, and ethnicity, among other categories. This information is presented within the final report to show differences between certain sub-group categories for each of the school climate dimensions. Demographic populations lower than ten people will *not* be reported to protect anonymity of respondents.

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Will my school report be confidential?

Yes. The CSCI is completely confidential.

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When will we get back the report?

Your Leadership Team will receive a hard copy and PDF version of the report within two weeks after the survey close-date.

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Do you compare and rate schools with the CSCI?

NSCC does not use the CSCI to compare or rate schools. The CSCI has been developed to support learning and improvement efforts based on each school's individual climate results, and is not meant to be used as a norm-referenced tool. NSCC considers each school's report to be confidential and will only share a school's CSCI results and program work with its permission.

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What have other schools said about the CSCI?

Schools have found the CSCI to be extremely helpful for many reasons. The CSCI provides reliable information about what the whole school community believes is and is not working. The CSCI provides a sound way to discover whether particular programs are helping. It also reveals important differences in perception between different groups. These groups may include students, teachers, parents and administrative staff. (Click here to view short videos from school leaders using the CSCI.)

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We know what our concerns are. Is it still helpful to take the CSCI?

There are several reasons why it may be very useful to use the CSCI even when you have a good sense of your school's concerns. The CSCI provides scientifically-sound methods of gathering data that may confirm or expand your sense of the school's climate. Sometimes a school's sense of its climate may come from listening to only a few of the loudest voices. The CSCI is a way to hear from many voices that may not have been heard previously. Schools have found that the CSCI can help build a case, based on data, for moving ahead on action plans.

The CSCI is also a method for building community. When parents and students complete the CSCI, the school leadership has an opportunity to authentically say to the community "I now understand what you see as our strengths and challenges. I want and need your collaborative support to address barriers to learning as well as to promote the positive social, emotional, ethical and academic skills that provide the foundation for school and life success."

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When we receive the CSCI report, what can we do with it?

CSCI findings can become the springboard for substantive and collaborative school improvement efforts. NSCC has developed a series of suggested "next steps" and school improvement tools to support sustained social, emotional, ethical and academic school improvement.

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How much does it cost to administer the CSCI and get a report?

We have a variety of options that schools may want to consider. To learn more about these please click here.

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Where might I get funds to help pay for the CSCI?

There are a variety of potential fund sources which may include violence prevention, school improvement, evaluation and assessment funds, drop out prevention, anti-bullying grants, and local school monies. The National School Climate Center also collaborates with school partners to seek funding support and helps fundraise through our School Climate Counts fund.

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Who should I contact at NSCC if I am interested in learning more about the CSCI?

Contact Darlene Faster dfaster@schoolclimate.org or call 212-707-8799, extension 22.

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