



# *Tell Them From Me* Student Feedback Survey Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

## Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

### What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students.

The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

### What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey will ask students questions about:

|                                    |                         |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Participation in Sports            | Homework Behaviour      | Expectations for Success                         |
| Positive Learning Climate          | Participation in Clubs  | Behaviour at School                              |
| Experiences of being Bullied       | Truancy                 | Sense of Belonging                               |
| Interest and Motivation            | Effective Learning Time | Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE |
| Positive Relationships             | Effort                  | Teaching Relevance                               |
| Feelings of worry or sadness       | Valuing school outcomes | Skills and learning challenge                    |
| Teaching Rigour                    | Advocacy at school      | Advocacy outside school                          |
| Positive Teacher-Student Relations |                         |  |

### How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open for all NSW government schools to participate in at no cost to them. Your school has taken up this offer.

### How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

### What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

### Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student's information.

## Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the Department's Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide analysis. Individual students' data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publication.

## What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders may use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school.

CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the Department, including performance data. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE's analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department's continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

## Can all school students participate in the survey?

Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

## When will the *Tell Them From Me* survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools between Monday 9 March and Thursday 2 April 2015 (Weeks 7-10 of Term 1).

## What is the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE)?

CESE is part of the Department of Education and Communities. It has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in NSW.

CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all education sectors.

## What is The Learning Bar and what is their role?

The Learning Bar is an international education company, with offices in Australia and Canada, that specialises in school surveys and student assessments. They have been contracted by the Department to run the surveys for NSW public schools. Its survey, *Tell Them From Me*, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada's ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years.

The Learning Bar has conducted surveys in Australia before, with schools helping to adapt surveys, ensuring they are appropriate to an Australian context. For purely administrative purposes, The Learning Bar will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than The Learning Bar and CESE researchers within the Department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

More information about The Learning Bar is available at: [www.thelearningbar.com](http://www.thelearningbar.com).



## Contact Details

For more information about the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, please contact us:

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