



# School Background Questionnaire

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**2003**  
**Grade 8**

## School Characteristics and Policies Questionnaire

This questionnaire should be completed by the principal or the head of the school.

Some of the questions that follow ask you to fill in specific numbers. For those questions, please print the appropriate numbers in the boxes provided. Please PRINT LEGIBLY. Using one number per box, fill in every box. Keep all printing within the boxes. Do not make any stray marks. Use only a No. 2 pencil.

Example:  
150 would be written as

,

Examples of numerals are:

1. What grades are taught at your school? Fill in **all** ovals that apply.

- Ⓐ Pre-kindergarten
- Ⓑ Kindergarten
- Ⓒ 1st grade
- Ⓓ 2nd grade
- Ⓔ 3rd grade
- Ⓕ 4th grade
- Ⓖ 5th grade
- Ⓗ 6th grade
- Ⓘ 7th grade
- Ⓙ 8th grade
- Ⓚ 9th grade
- Ⓛ 10th grade
- Ⓜ 11th grade
- Ⓝ 12th grade



2. As of February 1, 2003, how many days of instruction will students in your school have had this school year? (If your school has multiple tracks with different schedules, please answer separately for each track.)

VB378132

days of instruction in first (or only) track

VB378133

days of instruction in second track

VB378134

days of instruction in third track

VB378135

3. What is the current enrollment in your school?

VB337250

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4. Of the students currently enrolled in your school, what percentage has been identified as limited-English proficient?

VB337256

- (A) 0%
- (B) 1-5%
- (C) 6-10%
- (D) 11-25%
- (E) 26-50%
- (F) 51-75%
- (G) 76-90%
- (H) Over 90%

5. What type of school is this? Fill in ovals for **all** that apply.

- Ⓐ Regular middle or secondary school
- Ⓑ A regular school with a magnet program
- Ⓒ A magnet school or a school with a special program emphasis, e.g., science/math school, performing arts school, talented/gifted school, foreign language immersion school, etc.
- Ⓓ Special education: a school that primarily serves students with disabilities
- Ⓔ Alternative: a school that offers a curriculum designed to provide alternative or nontraditional education, not clearly categorized as regular, special education, or vocational
- Ⓕ Private (independent)
- Ⓖ Private (religiously affiliated)
- Ⓗ Charter school
- Ⓘ Privately run public school
- Ⓙ Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which of the following best describes how the eighth grades in your school are organized for instruction? Fill in **one** oval.

- Ⓐ Self-contained. Students stay with the same teacher for all academic subjects.
- Ⓑ Semi-departmentalized. Students are taught by different teachers in some of their subjects.
- Ⓒ Departmentalized. Students have different teachers for most or all academic subjects.

VB473308

7. Are eighth-grade students typically assigned to classes by ability and/or achievement levels (so that some classes are higher in average ability and/or achievement levels than others) in any of the following subjects? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- |                                      | Yes                     | No                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Mathematics                       | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB473309 |
| b. Reading/English/<br>language arts | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB473310 |

VB482732

8. During each week, how much time does the typical student in grade 8 in your school receive instruction in each of the following subjects? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- |                                      | Less than<br>1 hour     | At least<br>1 hour but<br>less than<br>2 hours | At least<br>2 hours but<br>less than<br>3 hours | 3 hours<br>or more      |          |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Mathematics                       | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B                        | <input type="radio"/> C                         | <input type="radio"/> D | VB482733 |
| b. Reading/English/<br>language arts | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B                        | <input type="radio"/> C                         | <input type="radio"/> D | VB482734 |

HE000935

9. Does your school offer eighth-grade students a course in algebra for high school course placement or credit?

- A Yes
- B No

VB482735

10. Do eighth graders in your school participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities such as clubs, competitions, fairs, or exhibits in any of the following areas? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- |                                      | <b>Yes</b>              | <b>No</b>               |          |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Mathematics                       | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482736 |
| b. Reading/English/<br>language arts | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VB482737 |

HE000874

11. Does your school do any of the following to involve parents? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- |  | <b>Yes,<br/>routinely</b> | <b>Yes,<br/>occasionally</b> | <b>No</b>               |          |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Use parents as aides in classrooms              | <input type="radio"/> A   | <input type="radio"/> B      | <input type="radio"/> C | HE000875 |
| b. Have parents review or sign students' homework  | <input type="radio"/> A   | <input type="radio"/> B      | <input type="radio"/> C | LC000482 |
| c. Assign homework for students to do with parents | <input type="radio"/> A   | <input type="radio"/> B      | <input type="radio"/> C | LC000484 |
| d. Have a parent volunteer program                 | <input type="radio"/> A   | <input type="radio"/> B      | <input type="radio"/> C | LC000486 |
| e. Offer special classes or workshops for parents  | <input type="radio"/> A   | <input type="radio"/> B      | <input type="radio"/> C | QK070737 |
| f. Have parents as guest teachers                  | <input type="radio"/> A   | <input type="radio"/> B      | <input type="radio"/> C | QK070738 |

12. In your school, approximately what percentage of the parents do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%	
a. Participate in a parent-teacher organization	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002142
b. Participate in open houses or back-to-school nights	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002108
c. Participate in parent-teacher conferences	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002109
d. Are involved in making school curriculum decisions	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002110
e. Participate in volunteer programs	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002111



13. To what degree is each of the following a problem in your school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	<b>Not a Problem</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Serious</b>	
a. Student absenteeism	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000888
b. Student tardiness	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000887
c. Physical conflicts among students	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000890
d. Teacher absenteeism	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000892
e. Racial or cultural conflicts	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000893
f. Student health problems	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000894
g. Lack of parent involvement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002121
h. Student use of alcohol	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002122
i. Student use of tobacco	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002123
j. Student use of drugs	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002124
k. Gang activities	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002125
l. Student misbehavior in class	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002126
m. Cheating	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002127
n. Physical conflicts between students and teachers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	ID100078
o. Vandalism	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	ID100080

HE000895

14. How would you characterize each of the following within your school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Very Negative	Somewhat Negative	Somewhat Positive	Very Positive	
a. Morale of teachers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000897
b. Students' attitudes toward academic achievement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000898
c. Parental support for student achievement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000900
d. Teachers' expectations for student achievement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	ID100081
e. Regard for school property	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000901

HE000917

15. About what percentage of your students is absent on an average day? (Include excused and unexcused absences in calculating this rate.)

- A 0-2%
- B 3-5%
- C 6-10%
- D More than 10%

LC000488

16. About what percentage of your teachers is absent on an average day? (Include all absences in calculating this rate.)

- A 0-2%
- B 3-5%
- C 6-10%
- D More than 10%

HE000918

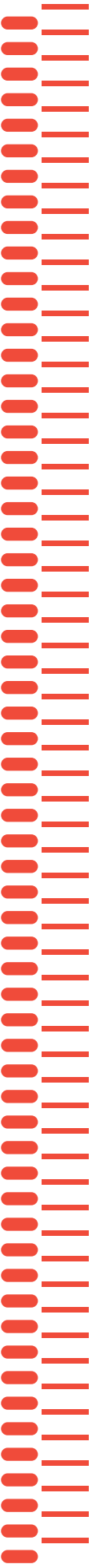
17. About what percentage of students who are enrolled at the beginning of the school year is still enrolled at the end of the school year? (Exclude students who transfer into the school during the school year in figuring this rate.)

- Ⓐ 98-100%
- Ⓑ 95-97%
- Ⓒ 90-94%
- Ⓓ 80 - 89%
- Ⓔ 70-79%
- Ⓕ 60-69%
- Ⓖ 50-59%
- Ⓗ Less than 50%

HE002230

18. About what percentage of this year's eighth graders was held back and is repeating eighth grade?

- Ⓐ 0%
- Ⓑ 1-2%
- Ⓒ 3-5%
- Ⓓ 6-10%
- Ⓔ More than 10%



19. Of the full-time teachers who started in your school last year, what percentage left before the end of the school year?

- (A) 0%
- (B) 1-2%
- (C) 3-5%
- (D) 6-10%
- (E) 11-15%
- (F) 16-20%
- (G) More than 20%

20. Does your school participate in the National School Lunch Program?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

21. During this school year, about what percentage of students in your school was eligible to receive a free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program?

- (A) 0%
- (B) 1-5%
- (C) 6-10%
- (D) 11-25%
- (E) 26-50%
- (F) 51-75%
- (G) 76-99%
- (H) 100%

ID100393

22. Does your school receive Title I funding? (Title I is a federally funded program which provides educational services, such as remedial reading or remedial math, to children who live in areas with high concentrations of low-income families.)

- A Yes
- B No

ID100394

23. Approximately what percentage of students in your school receives the following services? Fill in **one** oval on each line. Students who receive more than one service should be counted for each service they receive. Please report the percentage of students who receive each of the following services as of the day you respond to this questionnaire

	None	1-5%	6-10%	11-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-90%	Over 90%	
a. Title I funding	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	ID100395
b. Gifted and talented program	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	ID100398
c. Instruction provided in student's home language (non-English)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	HE002341
d. English-as-a-second language instruction (not in a bilingual education program)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	HE002342
e. Special education	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	HE002343

