



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: District Safe School Climate Coordinators

FROM: John Frassinelli, Chief  
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: December 31, 2014

SUBJECT: School Climate Assessments

All schools in public school districts, Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) and charter schools were required to implement Safe School Climate assessments for students, faculty/staff and parents/guardians during the 2012 – 2013 school year, and submit trend data from those surveys to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) no later than July 19, 2013. This process is biennial and therefore required during the 2014 – 2015 school year. Amendments to the legislation in 2014 require the CSDE, in collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), disseminate to all public schools, including magnet and charter schools: “grade-level appropriate school climate assessment instruments approved by the department...Such school climate assessment instruments shall include *surveys that contain uniform grade-level appropriate questions that collect information about students' perspectives and opinions about the school climate at the school, and allow students to complete and submit such assessment and survey anonymously.*”

The CSDE and CAS have collaborated with the National School Climate Center (NSCC). Their Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI) is deemed to be one of, if not the best, school climate survey instruments in the nation. Many Connecticut schools and districts have been using this set of surveys to gain detailed information about the perceptions and perspectives of their school's climate. The CSDE has identified six questions from the CSCI so that *all schools*, no matter which survey they choose to implement, can satisfy the statutory requirement and use these questions. You may add these questions to your existing survey *exactly as worded* or you could choose to ask only these six questions. If you choose the latter, it is recommended to ask them of all populations. Schools will be asked by the CSDE to submit the data from these six questions. Those schools/districts that are using the CSCI need not add any questions, because these six are among those currently contained in the full CSCI. The six questions are attached for all populations (students, faculty/staff and parents/guardians). Even though the statutory requirements only compel schools to ask these common questions of students, *we strongly encourage you to ask these questions of all populations.*

If you have any questions, please contact Jo Ann Freiberg at: [joann.freiberg@ct.gov](mailto:joann.freiberg@ct.gov) or (860) 807-2119; or Kathleen Wedge at: [kathleen.wedge@ct.gov](mailto:kathleen.wedge@ct.gov) or (860) 713-6792.