



# How Middle School Counselors Can IMPACT School Climate Data

La Quinta Middle School  
**STEM ACADEMY**

78-900 Avenue 50 La Quinta CA 92253 760.777-4220

Dan Borgen, Principal



# Introduction

13 years of school counseling experience

5 high school, 8 middle school and 9 concurrent college years

7 administrations

Father-3 awesome kids (14, 9, 3)

Husband-1 amazing wife!!

Officer in the Army National Guard

Current Assignment: La Quinta Middle STEM Academy





## Where I Started

I am not a DATA -PERSON

I am a PERSON-PERSON

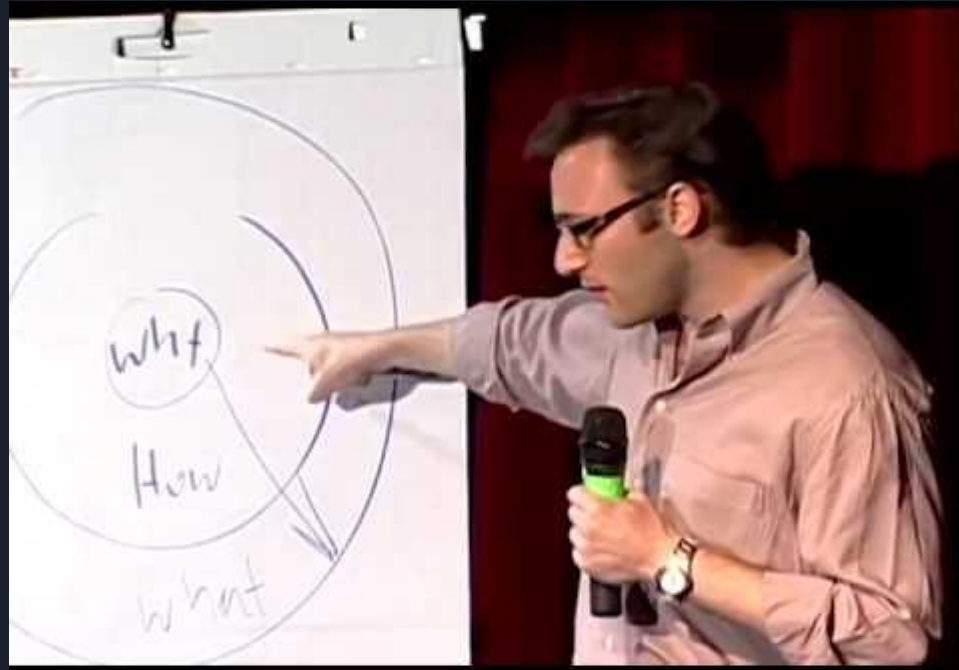
What I realized though is that I am a better PERSON-PERSON if  
I use that DATA



**Lazy people fact  
#2347827309018287.**

**You were too  
lazy to read  
that number.**

# Start With Your *Why*



# My Why



Started with the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)

- For several years the survey was treated like any survey
- I wanted to really know what the kids were feeling **beyond the survey**
- I wanted to personalize the data and use to to **better my programs and support services**
- At first I **didn't know where to begin**-that is why I am here, for those of you that might be in the same boat as I was just a few years ago.

Listen.....and take action!

My Challenge to you: Ask yourself "Why does it matter to me?"



# A Case for Connectedness

Klem and Connell (2004) provide a frightening statistic in this regard, noting that

By high school, as many as 40 to 60 percent of all students—urban, suburban, and rural—are chronically disengaged from school.

# Two Powerful Data Points for School Counselors

California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)

Panorama Survey

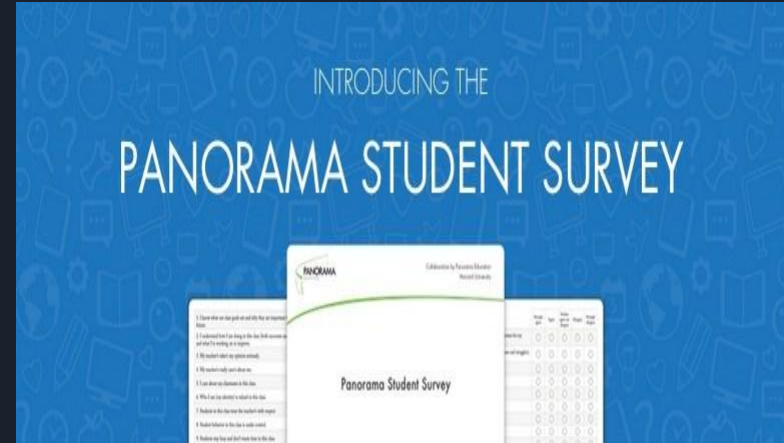
Others??

Which one does your school use?

Do you have access to results?

Who administers the survey?

How are your survey results shared?







# California Healthy Kids Survey

Given to 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th graders biannually or annually

Provides information about climate, bullying, alcohol and drug use and safety

Hard to compare apples to apples since it is given every two years so results are not apples to apples

Only get information back for one grade level

Anonymous





# Panorama Survey

Given to all students, yearly

Can compare longitudinal data of same kids to measure “real time” growth

Can drill down to the specific student response

Easy to share with staff

Web-based dashboard

Free-response questions



# Panorama Survey

## All questions

Based on **546** responses

How did students respond to each question?

Sorted by Survey order ▾ First to last ▾

QUESTION ➤ Adults at this school encourage me to work hard so I can be successful in college or at the job I choose.	<b>79%</b> responded favorably	<b>▲ 1</b> from 2017-2018	
QUESTION ➤ My teachers work hard to help me with my schoolwork when I need it.	<b>75%</b> responded favorably	<b>▲ 2</b> from 2017-2018	
QUESTION ➤ Teachers give students a chance to take part in classroom discussions or activities.	<b>77%</b> responded favorably	<b>▲ 3</b> from 2017-2018	
QUESTION ➤ This school promotes academic success for all students.	<b>78%</b> responded favorably	<b>▲ 7</b> from 2017-2018	
QUESTION ➤ This school is a supportive and inviting place for students to learn.	<b>78%</b> responded favorably	<b>▲ 2</b> from 2017-2018	

# School Connectedness

Specifically our school was below district average and I wasn't ok with that

Kids deserve better/more

Want to be proactive instead of reactive



# PANORAMA SURVEY

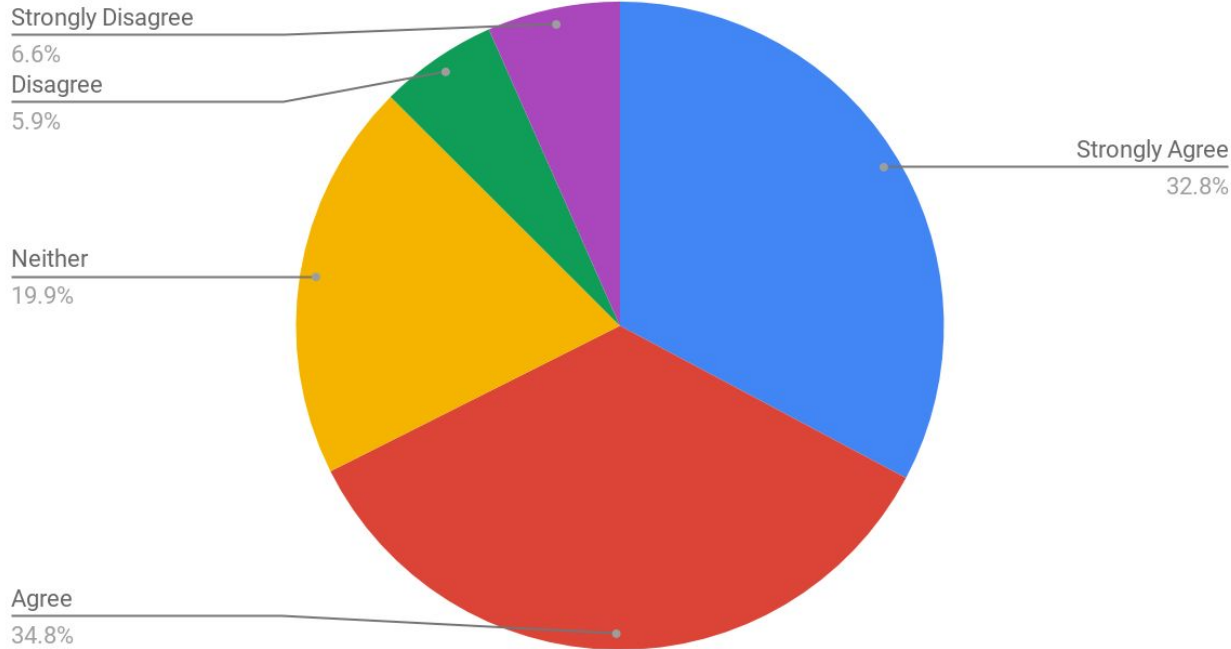
**La Quinta Middle School**

# SUMMARY

	Result	Growth	District Average
Climate of Support for Academic Learning	75%	3	75%
Knowledge and Fairness of Discipline, Rules and Norms	65%	1	63%
Safety	63%	2	65%
Sense of Belonging (School Connectedness)	65%	5	61%

# SENSE OF BELONGING (SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS)

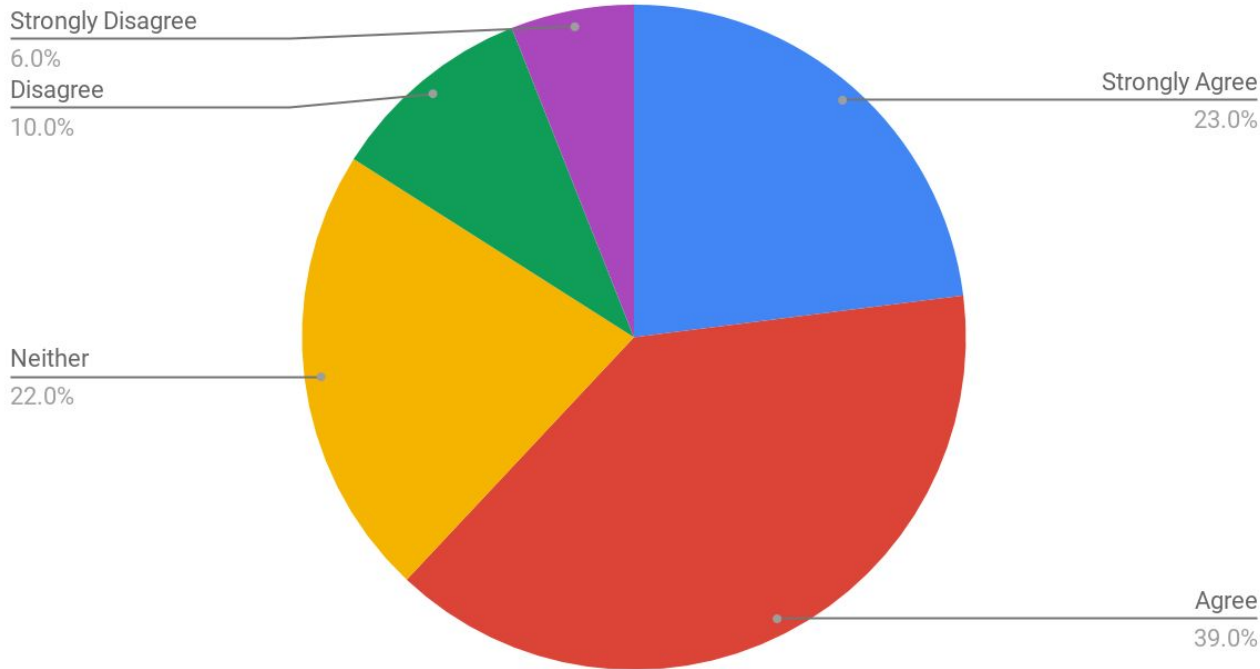
I am happy to be at this school



**8 POINT  
INCREASE!!**

# SENSE OF BELONGING (SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS)

I feel like I am part of this school



**8 POINT  
INCREASE!!**



# STUDENT FREE RESPONSE

What are two things your school does well that it should continue to do? Please be as specific as possible. ?



# STUDENT FREE RESPONSE

- Two things this school does well is having **activities** , such as **offline day** . Another thing that this school does wellis giving us **classes** about engineering.
- Well nothing really. Because i really enjoy this school i don't really know anything that could make it better.
- MR .GOLDMAN HAS BEEN THE BEST
- The way the **rules** are, like how there is a non-bullying.
- One thing is that my school makes **everyone** feel welcome and care about. The second one is that my school has amazing **teachers** and they will take there time after school to **help** you learn the lesson better and make it easier for you.
- Be part of hello week and be **respectful** and understanding to all **students** and adults.
- Two things that I like about the school is 1. that all **teachers** and **staff** just love talking with the **students** 2.that they try their best to keep us safe, and to improve this school

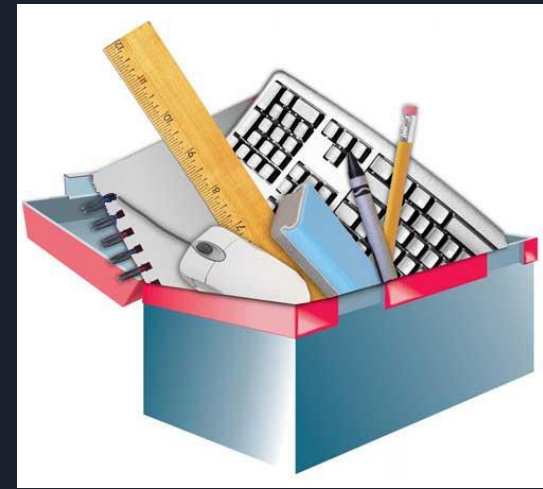
# Tools for Your Toolbox

Student Focus Groups

Offline Day

6th Grade Classroom Presentations about the “LQ Family”

Student Needs Assessment





Student  
Focus  
Groups  
and  
CHKS:

Told the kids before they took the survey I was going to conduct focus groups

Had the teachers that administered the CHKS send me groups of 8 kids each period

The  
Process

Let the teachers choose the sample of kids. Only requirement was that the kids were willing to participate

Met with the kids in conference room and spent the period getting feedback on key areas of the survey

Shared results with administration

# Offline Day

Started with only 6th grade

Periods 1-5

Kids spent the whole day in “families” of 30 (teacher signed up to facilitate family)

Each family had something to symbolize who they were

Hats, jewelry, pins, lay, etc.

Each family developed a Coat of Arms and family name

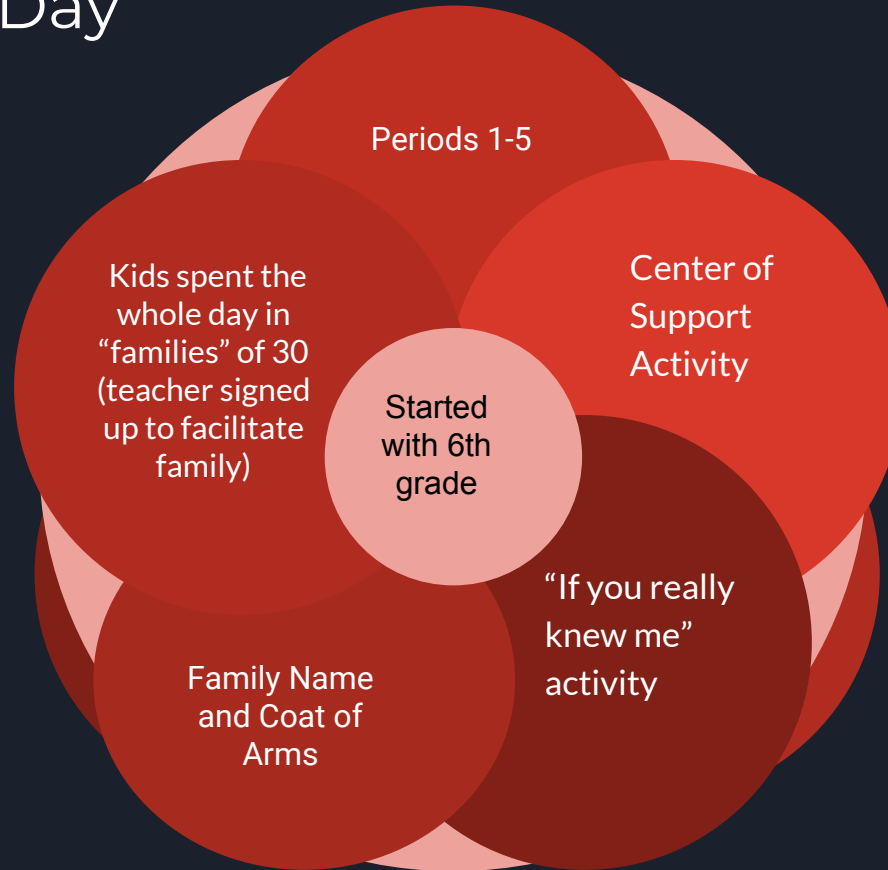
4 quadrants-fears, joys, goal....

Center of Support Activity

If you really knew me activity



# Offline Day





# Offline Day 2

Later in the year students spent 2 periods with their original families and did empathy activities

Ice Breakers:

Finish this sentence:

By the time i leave here today i hope to.....

One goal that i have next school year is.....

Skittle ice breaker:

Each color represents different sentence frames

I enjoy, I want, I love, I hate, I am, I feel...

Activities:

60 second eye-to-eye contact in silence to foster connection with another student

Self reflection activity:

What they were proud of and what they would like to improve

Letter to self:

Where do they see themselves in 8th grade, activities, grow..goals.

## Go Offline Day @ LQMS

### **Objective:**

To build empathy, connectedness and support within 6<sup>th</sup> grade student body.

### **Go Offline Day 2018 Schedule**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Action</b>
8:20	Students report to 1 <sup>st</sup> Period for Attendance
8:30	Students report to MPR (office will announce)
8:45- 11:40	<u>Go Offline Day</u>
8:45-9:15	Introduction, Video Clip, Rules and Hook-em Horns
9:15-9:30	Name tags, Iceberg and Lock Arms Activity
9:30- 10:00	Coat of Arm Activity
10:00	Transition to Field
10:05- 10:25	Cross the Line Activity
10:25	Separate into Designated Family Areas
10:30- 10:55	Questions
10:55- 11:25	If You Really Knew Me Activity
11:25- 11:40	Closing

### **ORGANIZATION PRIOR TO GO OFFLINE:**

- Bring your script and phone ☺





# 6th Grade Classroom Presentations

## Process Data:

- Approx. 270 students
- 6 classes
- 1 school day (across a science class)

## Lesson Purpose:

- Whole presentation is geared towards what a La Quinta Middle STEM Academy student looks like and acts like
- Family feel
- Common bond and commitment to each other

Teacher follows up with classroom discussions to reinforce ideas and concepts



ALWAYS REMEMBER  
THAT YOU'RE UNIQUE.

JUST LIKE  
EVERYONE ELSE.



# Student Needs Assessment

1 teacher at each grade level shares out google survey with all kids to request counseling

Survey allows students to request tier 2 or 3 services

The student chooses which services they would like and how they would like to receive them

Sift through the data to create groups

Also use the data to understand how to serve our students better

Immediate feedback

Easy to use

5-10 minutes in the class

# Student Needs Assessment Form

QUESTIONS    RESPONSES    278

## LQMS Student Needs Assessment

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\*Responses are only shared with administration

First Name:

Last Name:

ID#:

Grade Next Year

- 7
- 8

QUESTIONS    RESPONSES    278

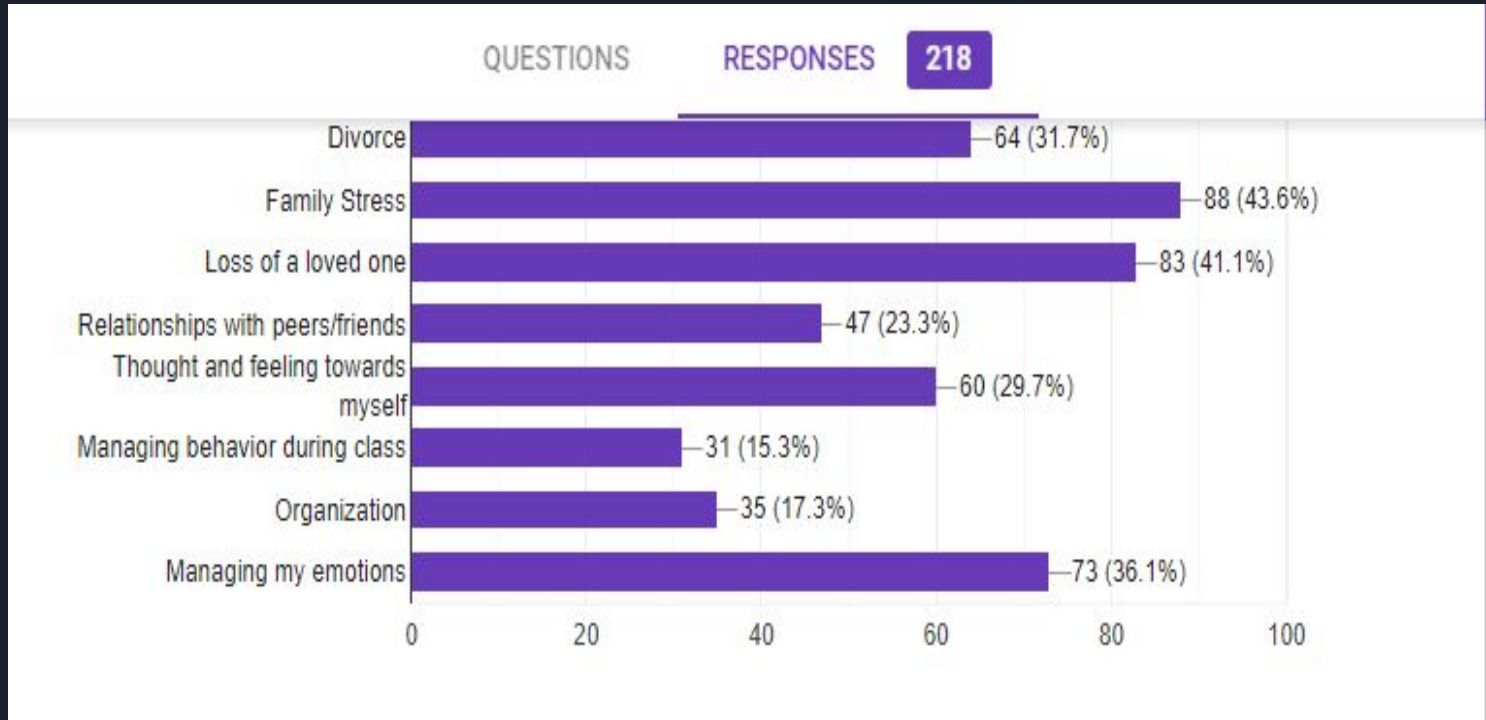
Check all that apply:

- Divorce
- Family Stress
- Loss of a loved one
- Relationships with peers/friends
- Thought and feeling towards myself
- Managing behavior during class
- Organization
- Use of media and technology
- Missing school/being tardy to school
- Managing my emotions

I am willing to discuss these barriers with Mr. Goldman in the following settings:

- One-on-One
- In a group with other students that have similar barriers
- No Thank you

# Needs Assessment Results



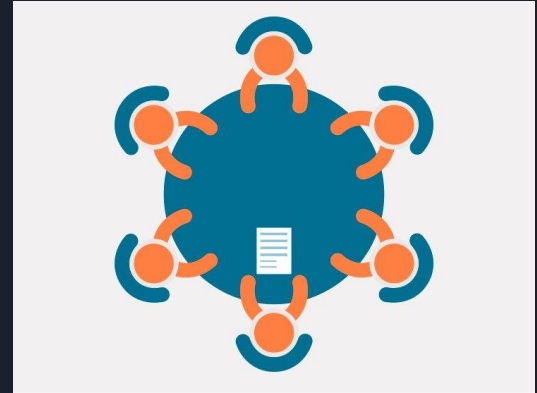
# Student Focus Groups Findings

Connectedness, Respect, Safety were key indicators/issues

PSST world, blind spots, back fields

Grade level team building/connectedness activities

Teacher-Student Relationships (gave teachers much larger role in offline day)





# Administration Buy-In

Met with admin to discuss results of school focus groups

PSST world, blind spots, back fields

Grade level team building/connectedness activities after every major holiday

Teacher-Student Relationships (gave teachers much larger role in offline day)

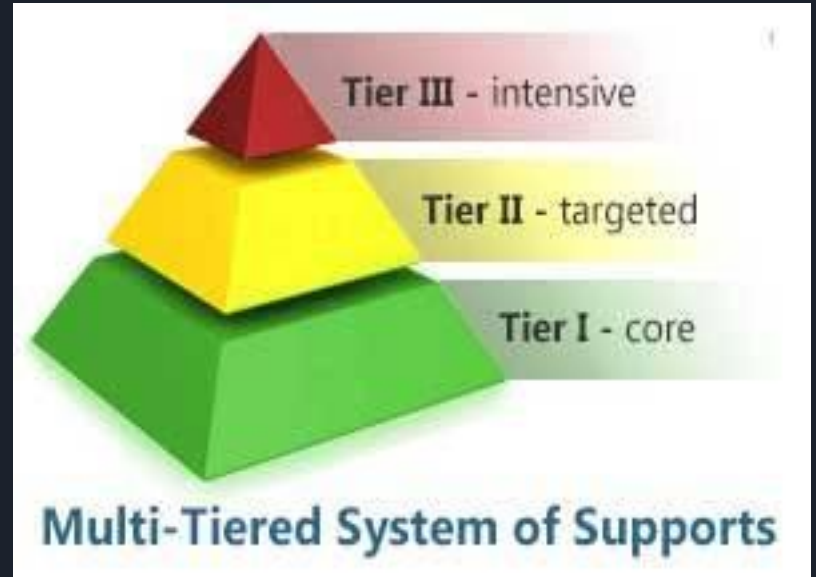
PSST world was added to all admin classroom discussion and placed on admin blog

Met to discuss strategic placement of cameras on campus and admin during lunch

Shut down hallway that students reports was an issue during lunch

# MTSS

- Panorama Survey
- CHKS
- Offline Day
- Student Focus Groups
- Small Group Counseling



What tier would these activities fall under?





# Your Thoughts

Take time to think about obstacles you might face

To implement activities and or focus groups.....




# Your Action

You don't deserve second best, so why should the kids

If this really hit home, I want you to commit to yourself to take one thing back and implement or begin the discussion about

Write that down





When I was 5 years old, my mom always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down “happy.” They told me I didn’t understand the assignment and I told them they didn’t understand life.

# Outcome Data

**Increase in Key Indicators!**

La Quinta MS  
Fall 2018 Student Climate, Secondary Student Survey (6-8)



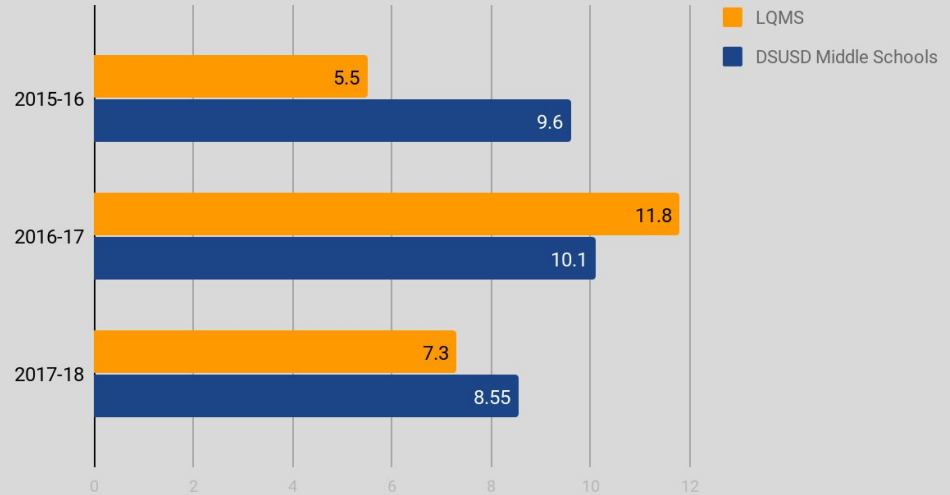
## Summary

Topic Description	Results	Comparison
<b>Climate of Support for Academic Learning</b>	<b>75%</b> ▲3 since last survey	<b>75%</b> Desert Sands Unified School District
<b>Knowledge and Fairness of Discipline, Rules and Norms</b>	<b>65%</b> ▲1 since last survey	<b>63%</b> Desert Sands Unified School District
<b>Safety</b>	<b>63%</b> ▲2 since last survey	<b>65%</b> Desert Sands Unified School District
<b>Sense of Belonging (School Connectedness)</b>	<b>65%</b> ▲5 since last survey	<b>61%</b> Desert Sands Unified School District

546 responses

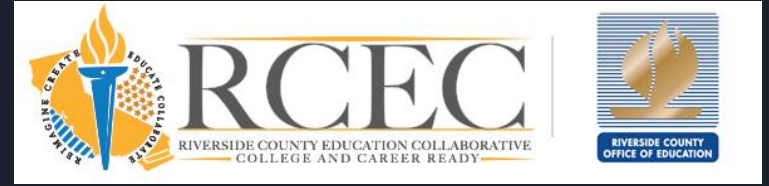
**Decrease in Suspension Rates!**

## Suspension Rate Comparison





# Need Resources?



To access this presentation and supporting documents, please log in to

[www.rcec.us](http://www.rcec.us)

and create a free account

# Q & A

When people ask stupid questions, I feel obligated to give sarcastic answers.



your  cards  
someecards.com



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