

TESTIMONIALS FROM AISD ON USE AND VALUE OF THE TELL DATA

“Austin has conducted school climate surveys for many years, but the TELL survey provided a valuable way for us to benchmark our school working conditions against others around the country. We know that the working conditions on a campus, which include the quality of campus leadership, is one of the most important factors in teacher recruitment and retention. The TELL survey is a good way for us to know how our schools are doing, and provides specific information about areas where we are doing well and where we can improve.”

~ Bill Caritj, Chief Performance Officer, Austin ISD

In 2011, AISD staff reviewed available school staff survey instruments and selected the TELL survey of school working conditions to replace the annual school climate survey that had been administered since 2005. After the first TELL AISD survey administration, senior leaders and principals in AISD met with New Teacher Center representatives on several occasions to discuss the results, which were benchmarked against similar districts and schools nationwide. District and campus leaders discussed how teachers’ perceptions of working conditions in AISD may have been influenced by programmatic and policy decisions, and schools with particularly favorable working conditions were identified as exemplars. Results from the Spring 2011 TELL survey informed the development of a Board priority for school and district climate in 2011-2012. Since 2011, TELL results have been discussed during principal professional development meetings and have become a meaningful tool for principals and senior district leaders as they plan for campus improvement. Each year, as results become available, reports are posted to the district website and district leaders are notified of their availability online. Principals and district leaders have responded favorably to the results, and appreciate the quality of information obtained from the survey.

Lisa N. T. Schmitt, Ph.D.
Department of Research & Evaluation
Austin Independent School District