

Fact Sheet: Attitudes & Behaviors Survey

The Attitudes & Behavior is a survey of the Search Institute that examines young people's own sense of their strengths, supports, and skills that are essential for success in school and life. Based on 25 years of research on youth development, it has been used with more than 3,000,000 youth around the country and around the world. The results help to create a common understanding of the strengths and supports in young people's lives in a school, program, organization, or community so that young people can be better supported.

CONTENT

The A&B examines the supports young people have in their families, schools, and communities in four categories: support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, and constructive use of time. It examines young people's internal strengths in these categories: commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity. It will also look at specific behaviors and activities, both good and bad, that they are involved in.

FORMAT

The A&B is a 160-question online survey for use by youth in grades 6 to 12. Most youth can complete the survey in less than 30 minutes.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SURVEY

Who administered the survey locally?

Social-emotional learning impacts a child's ability to achieve and thrive academically, and their long-term success in life. In an effort to gather community level data on the social-emotional health of Norwalk's children, Norwalk ACTS members Positive Directions-The Center for Prevention and Counseling and NPS partnered to implement the *Search Institute's Attitudes and Behaviors Survey* to all 7th, 9th and 11th grade students on November 27, 28 & 29, 2018. The survey was paid for through a grant Positive Directions received to implement strategies to limit youth and young adult substance use in Norwalk.

How will young people's answers be used?

The survey is part of a larger Norwalk ACTS Social-Emotional Initiative, which is focused on what we want to be true about Norwalk's children beyond academics. This will provide the first step in creating a community-level system measuring the strengths, assets, and needs of Norwalk's children. Data will be used to identify needs and drive decision making around programs/services ensuring Norwalk's children receive the social-emotional supports they need to thrive.

How do you know whether the youth are answering truthfully?

Search Institute has tested the survey with many young people. Consistent results have confirmed that the vast majority of youth respond honestly, if they are allowed to take the survey in a time and place that encourages thoughtful responses. In addition, several methods are used to determine whether youth are answering truthfully, and surveys that are clearly not being taken seriously will be eliminated through data analysis.

Who will have access to young people's survey answers?

The survey is administered in such a way that no participating youth can be identified individually. It is an anonymous survey. Aggregate data, analyzed by the Search Institute, and Positive Directions – The Center for Prevention and Counseling, has been provided to Norwalk ACTS. The Social Emotional Initiative of Norwalk ACTS will use the results to help inform and implement strategies and actions. Survey data will be available on the Norwalk ACTS website, www.norwalkacts.org, in early May.