



ISACS SCHOOL COMMUNITY SURVEY STANDARD QUESTIONS

Updates to the ISACS School Community Survey in 2020 included minor wording changes, addition of new questions, and adjustments to question flow. Major updates included:

- **Academic Skill Development (Question 6):** A multi-part question for all schools (Question 6 a-l) and additional academic skill sections developed specifically for **Montessori** (Question 6 m-q) and **Waldorf** schools (Question 6 r-w)
- **School Communication (Question 12):** A multi-part question about the mode and content of various types of school communication
- **Demographics (formerly Question 18):** No longer included in the standard survey. Pertinent demographic questions can be added as [custom questions](#).

Maintaining survey fidelity. The standard survey questions are designed to be applicable to a great variety of schools. **Standard survey topics may not be deleted.** For an additional fee, a school may request minor wording changes to a standard survey topic.

Preserving uniformity of language, question order, and content ensures consistency and provides schools with reliable benchmark group comparisons. While you may find topics in the standard questions that are not applicable to your school, the survey offers options to bypass these questions:

- With the exception of Question 1, responding to each question is optional.
- Where applicable, each survey question includes a Don't know/Does not apply response option.

Please review the survey questions and contact a member of the ISACS School Community Survey Team (IST) for additional information.

Standard closed-end survey questions

Questions	Response	Survey Skip Logic*			
		Student	Adult	Young Alumni	Older Alumni
1. Background					
a. Role/relationship with the school	Parent/Guardian, Faculty, Admin., Staff, Trustee, Alumnus/a, Student, Parent of Alumni	S	A	YA	OA
b. Which of the following best describes the length of your relationship with the school?	Less than 2 years, 2 – 5 years, 6 – 10 years, 11 – 15 years, 16 years or more	S	A		
c. Parents/Guardians – As a parent/guardian, please indicate the specific grade(s) of your student(s) at the school.	Parent/guardian version - Infant/toddler (birth – age 2). Early Childhood I (ages 2 - 3), Early Childhood II/Junior Kindergarten (ages 3 - 4), Kindergarten (ages 5 - 6), 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th , PG	S	A		

Students – Please indicate your grade. Q. 1c NOTE: not asked of Montessori Schools	Student version - 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th , PG				
d. Parents/Guardians – As a parent/guardian, please indicate the specific age(s) of your student(s) at the school. Students – Please indicate your age.	Parent /guardian version - Birth – Age 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 12, 13, 14 , 15 , 16 ,17, 18+ Student version – Age 9, 10, 11 12, 13, 14 , 15 , 16 ,17, 18+	S	A		
e. Faculty/staff/administration – As an employee, please indicate the specific grade(s) that you teach or in which you are involved.	Infant/toddler (birth – age 2/3). Early Childhood/Kindergarten (age 3/4 - 5/6), 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th , PG		A		
f. Alumnus/Alumna – Are you:	YA = 23 or under, OA = over 23 years of age			YA	OA
g. Which of the following best represents your educational experiences up to age 18? (Indicate all that apply)	US public school education, US private/independent school education, School not located in the US, Home schooled		A		

2. General Attitude and Perceptions about the school		Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree			
a. Positive school spirit is evident		S	A	YA	OA
b. All students have an equal opportunity for success		S	A	YA	OA
c. The student dress code is appropriate		S	A	YA	OA
d. The school has a commitment to moral values and character development		S	A	YA	OA
e. The school requires the right amount of homework		S	A	YA	OA
f. The school has a commitment to a racially, culturally, and economically diverse enrollment		S	A	YA	OA
g. The school has the right emphasis on grades and student evaluation		S	A	YA	OA
h. The school has the right number of administrators		S	A	YA	OA
i. The school encourages professional development of the faculty and staff		S	A	YA	OA
j. The school supports academic achievement		S	A	YA	OA
k. Each student feels well known by the school		S	A	YA	OA
l. The school is adequately funded		S	A	YA	OA
m. The school is innovative in its educational offerings		S	A	YA	OA
n. The school encourages faculty leadership		S	A	YA	OA
o. The school has a caring community environment		S	A	YA	OA
p. The school's mission is widely known and endorsed		S	A	YA	OA
q. The school's mission is largely achieved		S	A	YA	OA
r. Alumni are valued members of the extended school community				YA	OA
s. The school places a priority on its relationship with alumni				YA	OA
t. Alumni input to the school is valued				YA	OA

u. Communication with alumni is appropriate				YA	OA
v. The school provides adequate opportunities for alumni involvement				YA	OA
3. School Related Groups	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor				
a. Board of Trustees (strategic, fiduciary, involved, informed, professional)		S	A	YA	
b. Parents/Guardians (involvement, relationship with faculty and administration)		S	A	YA	
c. Students (respect for self, others, and property; enthusiasm, spirit, commitment)		S	A	YA	
d. Faculty (teaching skills, student management, professionalism, collegiality, relationship with administration, students, families)		S	A	YA	
e. Administration/staff (approachability, leadership, problem solving, responsiveness)		S	A	YA	
4. Academic Areas	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor				
a. Academic Program Overall (class size, teaching styles, technology, match of students & programs)		S	A	YA	
b. Visual/Performing Arts (instructional programs in the visual arts, drama, dance, music, etc.)		S	A	YA	
c. Computer science (programming, coding, etc.)		S	A	YA	
d. English/Language Arts		S	A	YA	
e. World Language(s)		S	A	YA	
f. Geography		S	A	YA	
g. History/Social Studies		S	A	YA	
h. Health/PE		S	A	YA	
i. Math		S	A	YA	
j. Public Speaking		S	A	YA	
k. Religion/Ethics		S	A	YA	
l. Science		S	A	YA	
m. Academic Areas Overall		S	A	YA	
5. Student Development	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor				
a. Social/Emotional development		S	A		
b. Character/Ethical development		S	A		
c. Leadership development		S	A		
d. Behavior (honesty, civility, inclusivity, avoiding inappropriate activities)		S	A		
e. Student Development Overall		S	A		
6. Skill Development	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor				
How would you rate the school in helping students develop these skills as age-appropriate?		S	A	YA	OA
a. Oral communication (presentation skills, discussion, debate, speech, acting, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
b. Written communication (grammar, spelling, composition, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
c. Collaboration (working in teams, cooperating with others, supporting class initiatives, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA

d. Critical thinking (reasoning, rational decision-making, problem solving, evaluating alternatives, creativity, and innovation, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
e. Creativity and Innovation (flexible thinking, novel problem-solving approaches, fresh perspectives, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
f. Cultural competency (understanding other perspectives and cultures, empathy, conflict resolution, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
g. Information literacy (research skills, online safety, digital citizenship, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
h. Technology (variety of technology tools used for learning, communicating, demonstrating learning outcomes, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
i. Social-emotional skills (dealing with others, coping skills, empathy, conflict resolution, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
j. Life skills (organization, goal setting, planning, persistence, resilience, personal accountability, self-advocacy, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
k. Leadership (leading others, managing objectives, supporting teams, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
l. Skill development overall**		S	A	YA	OA
Montessori (only included in survey for Montessori schools)		S	A	YA	OA
m. Practical life (care of self, environment, respect for others, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
n. Sensorial (visual, touch, smell, taste, sound, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
o. Language (reading, writing, presentation, discussion, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
p. Mathematics (numbers, adding, subtraction, multiplication, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
q. Culture (geography, science, history, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
** Q. 6l will appear after Q. 6q					
Waldorf (only included in survey for Waldorf schools)		S	A	YA	OA
r. Developing student capacity to think, reason, and hold intellectual concepts		S	A	YA	OA
s. Supporting student feeling and emotional life development		S	A	YA	OA
t. Nurturing student physical coordination and capacities		S	A	YA	OA
u. Academic skill development (language arts, mathematics, science, world languages, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
v. Artistic skill development (painting, clay, eurythmy, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
w. Practical skill development (handwork, woodwork, gardening/farming, etc.)		S	A	YA	OA
** Q. 6l will appear after Q. 6w					
7. Academic Services	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor				
a. Classroom Facilities		S	A		
b. Library/Information Services		S	A		
c. Technology Services		S	A		
d. Counseling/Guidance Services		S	A		
e. School Placement/College Counseling		S	A		
f. Special Needs Services (for students with learning differences)		S	A		

g. Health Services		S	A		
h. Academic Services Overall		S	A		
8. Extracurricular Activities	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor				
a. Athletic Program (emphasis on coaching, variety, emphasis on participation, success)		S	A	YA	
b. Community Service (emphasis on participation, variety of activities)		S	A	YA	
c. Extracurricular Visual/Performing Arts (emphasis on arts, variety, emphasis on participation)		S	A	YA	
d. Other Extracurricular Activities (clubs, interest groups, other activities)		S	A	YA	
9. Auxiliary Services	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor				
a. Transportation Services		S	A		
b. Extended Day Program (before/after school schedule, supervision, overall program success)		S	A		
c. Summer Program(s) (variety of activities, participation, overall success of program)		S	A		
d. School Security		S	A		
e. Residential Life (Boarding School) (supervision, quality of activities, overall quality of dorm life)		S	A		
10. Administrative Departments	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor				
a. Admissions/Enrollment (welcoming attitude, materials, contact, success in recruiting and retention)		S	A		
b. Business Office (helpfulness, policy/procedures, financial management)		S	A		
c. Development/Advancement (fund raising, events/campaigns, success in fund raising)		S	A	YA	OA
d. Food Service (nutritious meals, presentation, quality of food, policies/procedures)		S	A		
e. Building and Grounds (cleanliness, safety, maintenance, professionalism, quality)		S	A		
11. Alumni Relations	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor				
a. Alumni Relations (communications with alumni, alumni events, general public relations)		S	A	YA	OA
b. Communications with alumni				YA	OA
c. Alumni events				YA	OA
d. Alumni staff/personnel				YA	OA
e. Alumni services				YA	OA
f. Alumni policies/practices				YA	OA
g. Alumni Association				YA	OA
h. Alumni Relations Overall				YA	OA
i. Preferred alumni communications method	Email, Letter, Newsletter, Magazine, Website, Social media, Text message			YA	OA
Alumni connections					
j. Visit in the past year as an alumnus/a of the school?	Please select all that apply			YA	OA
School campus					

School website					
Reunion(s) on campus					
Homecoming					
School alumni event <u>on</u> campus					
School alumni event <u>off</u> campus					
School event <u>on</u> campus (play, lecture, etc.)					
School event <u>off</u> campus (athletics, concerts, art shows, etc.)					
Alumni personal contact					
k. Have you had contact with:	Please select all that apply			YA	OA
A school representative in past year (faculty, admin., etc.)					
Other alumni in past year					
Alumni future contact					
As an alumnus/a, what is your likelihood to attend in next 12 months ...	Extremely likely, Very likely, Somewhat likely, Not very likely, Not at all likely				
l. Reunion (if your year)				YA	OA
m. Homecoming				YA	OA
n. School sponsored off-campus <u>alumni</u> event				YA	OA
o. School sponsored off-campus <u>school</u> event (athletics, concerts, art shows, etc.)				YA	OA
Alumni reasons for attendance					
p. If you were to attend an alumni event, which of the following reasons best describes the rationale for attending such an event?	Please select all that apply			YA	OA
Value experience/education					
Interest in event					
Fun/enjoyable					
Like to visit/see the school/campus					
Like to see other alumni/classmates					
Like to see faculty, administrators, coaches					
Networking (e.g., business)					
Like to support the school					
Activities include family					
Activities do not include family					
Other reasons					
Alumni reasons for non-attendance					
q. If you were NOT able to attend an alumni event, such as reunion, which of the following reasons best describes the rationale for not attending such an event?	Please select all that apply			YA	OA
No interest in event/activity					
No reason to attend such an event					
No desire to revisit the school					
No connection to the school					
No connection with other alumni					
Distance/too far away					
Do not know who would be there					
Do not have transportation					
Had unhappy school experience					

Schedule conflict/too busy					
Too expensive					
School groups too cliquey					
I stay in contact with school/people when I prefer					
Activities include family					
Activities do not include family					
Nothing to talk about					
Others brag too much					
Other reasons					
Alumni background					
r. Highest level of formal education	High school degree, Some college, College degree, Graduate/Master's degree, Postgraduate degree, Other			YA	OA
s. Indicate the year that you graduated or last attended the school	Fill in year			YA	OA
t. Distance from your current residence to the school	Within 50 miles, within 100 miles, within 200 miles, within 300 miles, more than 300 miles from the school			YA	OA
12. School Communications					
Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor					
a. How would you rate the overall content of general communications from the school?		S	A	YA	OA
b. Overall, how would you rate the mode of general communications from the school? (e.g., email, newsletter, website, social media, text message)		S	A	YA	OA
c. Overall, how would you rate the school for keeping you informed of important school information?		S	A	YA	OA
d. Overall, how would you rate the mode of communicating important school information? (e.g., email, newsletter, website, social media, text message)		S	A	YA	OA
e. How would you rate the overall student specific communications from teachers, faculty, staff or administration?		S	A		
f. Overall, how would you rate the mode of specific student communications from teachers, faculty, staff or administration? (e.g., email, newsletter, website, social media)		S	A		

13. Financial/Educational Value					
a. Overall cost and educational expenses	Very expensive, Somewhat expensive, Not at all expensive	S	A	YA	OA
b. Overall cost comparison for comparable schools	Much higher, Somewhat higher, About the same, Somewhat lower, Much lower	S	A	YA	OA
c. Considering cost, value of school education/degree	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Marginal, Poor	S	A	YA	OA
14. Quality of education					
a. Overall quality of education	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor	S	A	YA	OA
b. Educational comparison to comparable schools	Much better, Somewhat better, About the same, Somewhat worse, Much worse	S	A	YA	OA
c. Preparation for future academic studies (high school, college, etc.)	Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor			YA	OA
d. Preparation for life				YA	OA
e. Foundation for work/career				YA	OA
15. Overall Relationship with the school		Extremely likely, Very likely, Somewhat likely, Not very likely, Not at all likely			
a. Likelihood to recommend the school to a friend, neighbor, or colleague		S	A	YA	OA
b. Likelihood to continue attending/ supporting the school		S	A	YA	OA
c. Likelihood to increase your support of the school		S	A	YA	OA
d. Hypothetically, if you were in the position, how likely you would be to attend the school (do it all over again)				YA	OA
16. Support of School					
a. Priority to support/give to the school	Very high, High, Average, Low, Very low		A	YA	OA
b. Priority to support the school compared to other charitable endeavors	Much higher, Somewhat higher, About the same, Somewhat lower, Much lower		A	YA	OA
Likelihood to support the school (if asked) in the next 12 months . . .	Extremely likely, Very likely, Somewhat likely, Not very likely, Not at all likely				
c. Monetary (make a contribution)			A	YA	OA
d. Volunteer your talent/skill			A	YA	OA
e. Volunteer your time			A	YA	OA
17. School Custom Questions					
Insert school custom questions*		S	A	YA	OA

*Background or demographic questions have been eliminated from the survey but can be inserted in the custom question section. A total of 10 closed-end custom questions are included in the ISACS School Community Survey package. Please contact an IST member if you have questions or need to discuss additional closed-end custom questions.

Open-ended custom questions

Three open-ended narrative questions are included in the full survey package. The following three questions are standard in the survey. You can change the wording of these standard open-ended questions at no cost. In addition, you can include more than three open-ended questions in the survey. Each additional open-ended question will cost \$50 for programming and processing. Examples of custom open-ended questions are provided below.

Standard open-ended questions

1. What are the strengths or positive aspects of the school?
2. What are the weaknesses or your concerns about the school?
3. Where should the school focus its efforts in the future? What suggestions do you have for improving the school?

Sample custom open-ended questions

1. If you believe there is pressure to succeed academically, please describe how it is impacting your child's emotional well-being or connection with other students.
2. Like a garden, communities need constant tending to remain healthy. Please share your suggestions on how the school can continue to build and strengthen our sense of community.
3. What values are most important to you in the school's educational program?