

**From:** 5Essentials Survey 5essentials@uchicago.edu  
**Subject:** 2014 Illinois 5Essentials Survey  
**Date:** March 7, 2014 at 10:12 AM  
**To:** skuffel@dist228.org

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#).

Share this:    

# Illinois 5Essentials survey

Organizing Schools for Improvement

Dear Administrator:

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, **UChicago Impact** will administer the second annual Illinois 5Essentials Survey, a unique opportunity for teachers, students, and parents to have a voice in improving their schools. From March 17 through April 25, teachers, students, and parents will be asked to take a 20-minute research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's learning environment. This second annual survey will also be an important chance for schools to reflect progress since last year's inaugural statewide implementation.

## **Background**

This survey is based on the Five Essentials for School Success, an evidence-based framework developed by the University of Chicago. This framework identifies how school performance on five factors or "essentials" can indicate important student outcomes, including improved attendance and larger test score gains. Prior research has shown that schools strong on three or more of the 5Essentials were 10 times more likely to improve student learning gains than schools weak on three or more of the Essentials. Those 5Essentials are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environment
- Ambitious Instruction

## **2014 Participation**

Districts that did not administer the survey in 2013, as well as Race to the Top Districts, are required to administer the teacher and student components of the Illinois 5Essentials Survey in order to fulfill state legislation. Districts that administered the survey last year are encouraged to do so again for the 2014 administration but are not mandated. These non-mandated districts were provided the option to actively opt-out of the Illinois 5Essentials Survey by completing and submitting an opt-out form that was provided by ISBE. Although the window for submitting this form has closed, non-mandated districts may still elect to not participate in the survey by not administering in the district. Like last year, 5Essentials Reports will only be generated for schools that reach a 50% respondent threshold. The parent survey will continue to be an optional component for both mandated and non-mandated groups. Contact 5Essentials if you have any questions or concerns.

## **School Rosters**

This year, school rosters will be provided by ISBE and will include teacher, total student, and 6th-12th grade student counts. For the launch of the survey, 2013 teacher counts will be used, pulled from the Employment Information System (EIS). Student counts will be pulled from the Student Information System (SIS) and will be sourced from 2014 data. Principals and superintendents will be emailed access to the survey administration tool prior to the open of the survey on March 17. Principals should review their student and teacher counts and make any necessary updates directly to ISBE's EIS or SIS systems. Final counts, which will be used for the generation of detailed school-level reports, will be pulled from these systems at the end of the survey window. Any changes to teacher and student counts will need to be made in the appropriate ISBE database by April 21, for inclusion in a school's response rate calculation.

### **Focus Groups**

As part of this year's administration, a series of focus groups were conducted around the state to get user input on the content of the 5Essentials Survey. Participants included principals, superintendents, teachers, and representatives from various Illinois education associations. As a result of these sessions, slight modifications have been made to the content of this year's survey, and additional analyses will be conducted on other items for consideration in the 2015 administration. The report generated from these focus groups is available online at the Illinois 5Essentials [website](#).

### **Support**

Participating schools and districts can familiarize themselves with the 5Essentials Survey and the 2014 administration by reviewing the survey administration manual. The manual is currently available online and a hard copy is being mailed to all participating schools and districts. In addition, administrators can register for one of the live webinar offerings, detailed below. If you cannot attend a live webinar, recorded versions of both webinars are currently available on the Illinois 5Essentials [website](#).

Two types of webinars are being offered. The New Users Webinar is designed for stakeholders who are unfamiliar with 5Essentials or who will be administering the survey for the first time. The Returning Users Webinar will provide information to individuals who administered the survey last year and are refreshing their knowledge of the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. To register for a webinar that is best-suited for you, select one of the times from the appropriate category below:

#### *New Users Webinar (30 minutes)*

3:00pm CST, March 11

10:00am CST, March 13

#### *Returning Users Webinar (15 minutes)*

8:45am CST, March 11

1:00pm CST, March 13

### **Reporting**

School-level 5Essentials Reports will be generated from carefully analyzed survey data only if at least 50 percent of teachers and/or students respond to the survey and at least eight valid respondents complete the survey. If at least 30 percent of parents complete the parent survey, a parent supplement will also be generated. 5Essentials Reports will be disseminated as follows:

- Principals and superintendents will receive their 5Essentials Reports this summer, which will also include the parent supplement. At this time, administrators may access their 5Essentials Reports with login credentials at [illinois.5-essentials.org](#)
- Survey results will also be reported publically on the 2014 **State School Report Card website**. The results will include school performance on each of the Essentials.
- Detailed 5Essentials Reports will also be publically released in the fall. The 5Essentials Reports will be available at [Illinois.5-essentials.org](#) and will be viewable without login credentials.

Beginning this year, surveys will be normed using the 2013 statewide results so that all schools can demonstrate progress over time.

Survey administration officially begins on Monday, March 17. Beginning that day, please visit [illinois.5-essentials.org](#) and find the survey button on the top of the page to take the survey.

For more information about the Illinois 5Essentials Survey including: FAQs, the survey administration manual, sample school-level 5Essentials Reports, survey questions, focus group report, and other resources, please visit [illinois.5-essentials.org](#). If you have any questions about the survey, please contact 5Essentials Customer Support at 1-866-440-1874 or [5Essentials@uchicago.edu](mailto:5Essentials@uchicago.edu).

Thank you,  
UChicago Impact

---

**UCHICAGOImpact**

If you have any questions or concerns about the *Illinois 5Essentials Survey* or webinars, please contact the 5Essentials Client Services at 1-866-440-1874 or [5essentials@uchicago.edu](mailto:5essentials@uchicago.edu)

---

Powered by UChicago Impact at The University of Chicago

1307 E. 60th Street | Chicago, IL 60637 US

This email was sent to [skuffel@dist228.org](mailto:skuffel@dist228.org). To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

[manage your preferences](#) | opt out using **TrueRemove®**.

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

