

School Climate & Safety in the Distance Learning Environment



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This session was originally the first in a four-part series on Improving School Climate & Safety Through Inter-Professional Collaboration. As a stand-alone training, [this webinar](#) looks at school climate and safety, specifically as they relate to the distance learning environment. Drawing from experts, this session provides guidance on how individuals in a variety of roles can contribute to school climate and safety away from the physical classroom environment.

Learning Outcomes

- » Identify how school climate changes for online learning.
- » Describe challenges that can arise in building school climate when using distance learning.
- » Reflect on opportunities for inter-professional collaboration in building school climate.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ School climate is the quality and character of school life. It includes the experiences of all school community members, school goals and structures, and teaching and learning practices.
- ✓ All relationships and interactions between people in schools are bi-directional, meaning they influence school climate and school climate influences them.
- ✓ Two key components of school climate are 1) the structure/strictness of the school environment and 2) the engagement of the adults in the school environment.
- ✓ Staff retention, student engagement, and family satisfaction all tend to correlate positively with school climate ratings.
- ✓ Schools and relevant collaborators should define a positive school climate and outline action steps that can be taken to achieve it.
- ✓ It is important that school members (teachers, students, administrators, school resource officers, etc.) understand that they play important roles in determining school climate and have the potential to positively impact others. Clearly outlined responsibilities allow for simpler collaboration and more streamlined communication.

Additional Resources

[How to Create a Positive School Climate](#) - An article from the Berkeley Greater Good Science Center highlighting different methods for creating the intended classroom climate.

[National School Climate Center](#) - A collection of resources, including tools to evaluate the current school climate as well as set goals for the future.

Questions for Discussion

- » How does your school community think about school climate in the distance learning environment? How can you measure this?
- » Does your school have a clear definition and set of goals for school climate? If not, can one be developed?
- » How do you impact school climate in your role?
- » How can you tell if school climate is changing? What metrics would be most relevant?

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