



2014 TELL Mass Survey

Statement of The Advisory Council

The **TELL** (Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning) **Massachusetts** Survey council members, and the organizations they represent, want to ensure that every Massachusetts educator works in, and every student attends, a school that is a great place to teach and learn. Research from across the country has demonstrated that the presence of positive teaching and learning conditions is essential for student success and teacher retention. By documenting and analyzing how teachers and other educators view their teaching and learning conditions, educators, stakeholders and policymakers can make evidence-based decisions on policies and practices that will improve student learning and success.

It is with this vision in mind that the **TELL Massachusetts** survey has been created. Gathering information for every school in the State is important to the success of the initiative. By surveying every school-based educator, valuable information about educators' perceptions of teaching and learning conditions can be compiled and analyzed at the school, local, and state levels.

While this initiative is sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, support and promotion also come from the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council believes that for the initiative to be a success, the survey must be designed, disseminated and utilized through a partnership of educators, stakeholders and policymakers. The **TELL Mass** supporters want to ensure that every educator works in-and every student attends- a school that is a great place to teach and learn.

The TELL Massachusetts supporting organizations are committed to:

- **The privacy of all survey respondents.** The survey will be anonymous and confidential for all educators. The data are only as helpful as educators are willing to share essential information about their schools.
- **Supporting and promoting the survey initiative, including actively engaging members and school and district staff in the purpose and importance of the initiative and encouraging and facilitating survey participation.**
- **Conveying and ensuring that the purpose of the survey is to improve schools, not to discipline personnel.** Teaching and learning conditions result from cultures, decisions and personalities over years. They are bigger than any one person, and it will take everyone in a school to improve them.

- **Monitoring and proactively promoting the appropriate use of data locally among constituent members.** If data are used inappropriately or violations of the intent of the survey initiative are found, ESE will convene appropriate partners to collectively work to address the situation.
- **Providing data to educators.** All educators at schools that have sufficient response rates to the survey will have access to their schools' survey results to use as the basis for collaborative problem solving around identified issues and to integrate findings into school improvement planning.
- **Providing tools and assistance to ensure that the survey data are used, and used appropriately.** This assistance will focus on helping school-level staff strategically and collaboratively determine how to best select specific areas to address and then determine appropriate interventions.
- **Ensuring that the survey data are viewed as part of a larger picture of many important factors, and is not used to unilaterally and arbitrarily judge a school's or school system's effectiveness.** Survey data should be analyzed with other information to make informed decisions.
- **Conveying and ensuring that the purpose of the survey is to identify areas in need of improvement within a school so that educators can work together to analyze data and develop strategies for improvement.** We agree that improving teaching and learning conditions is the responsibility of all members of a learning community and that we will work together in a collaborative and positive manner to better serve our students.
- **Sharing this statement with members so that all will understand the purpose of the survey and the appropriate use of the data.**

The following partners, representing various organizations across the state, offer their signatures as witness to the agreement in this Memorandum of Understanding September 27th, 2013

THIS IS THE DRAFT COPY-SIGNATURES FORTHCOMING

Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education

MA Assoc of Vocational Administrators

MA Teachers Association

Teach Plus

MA Assoc of School Committees