

Positive school climate is a **protective factor** guarding students against the threat of high-risk behaviors, such as substance abuse, aggressive or bullying behaviors, and other forms of victimization.

School climate involves:

Help Seeking

Adults care, want students to succeed, listen, and treat students fairly and respectfully. Students feel that they can get help when they need it from supportive adults.



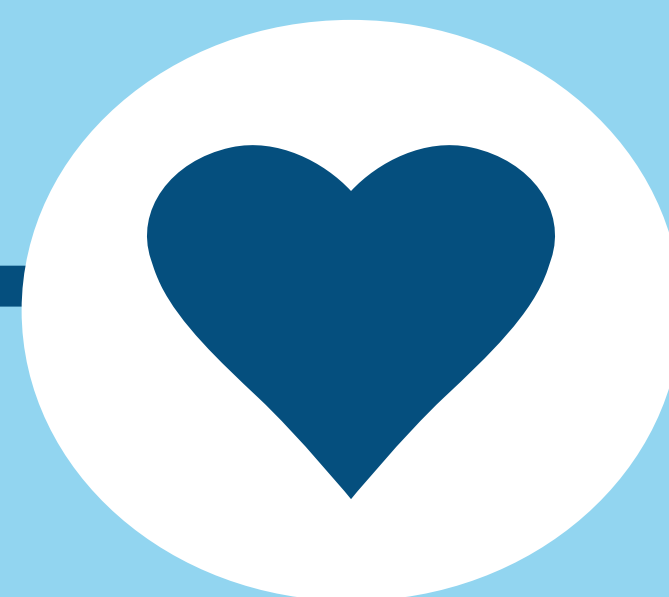
Sense of Belonging

Students interact in school, form relationships, and are accepted by others. They feel like they are part of the school.



Positive Relationships

Younger students develop positive relationships with adults. Older students receive support from their peers.



Sense of Safety

Schools consistently enforce rules and have a clean environment. Diversity is respected. Students know that their school is free from bullying and other types of victimization.



All students should feel and experience daily a school climate that is **positive, supportive**, and that they are **part of their school**.

Positive school climate has been linked to:

Increased...



Academic Achievement



Social Development



Attendance

Reduced...



Victimization

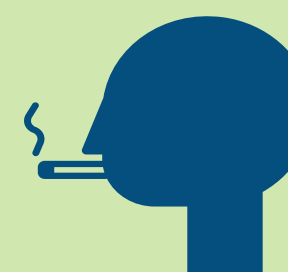
Aggression

Behavior Problems

Delinquency

Substance Use

Mental Health Concerns



Explore Research on School Climate:

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3. Hatchel, T., Espelage, D. L., & Huang, Y. (2018). Sexual harassment victimization, school belonging, and depressive symptoms among LGBTQ adolescents: Temporal insights. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 88*, 422–430.
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5. Klein, J., Cornell, D., & Konold, T. (2012). Relationships between bullying, school climate, and student risk behaviors. *School Psychology Quarterly, 27*, 154–169.
6. Poteat, V. P., Sinclair, K. O., DiGiovanni, C. D., Koenig, B. W., & Russell, S. T. (2013). Gay-straight alliances are associated with student health: A multischool comparison of LGBTQ and heterosexual youth. *Journal of Research on Adolescence, 23*, 319–330.
7. Waasdorp, T. E., Pas, E. T., O'Brennan, L. M., & Bradshaw, C. (2011). A multilevel perspective on the climate of bullying: Discrepancies among students, school staff, and parents. *Journal of School Violence, 10*, 115–132.
8. Williams, S., Schneider, M., Wornell, C., & Langhinrichsen-Rohling, J. (2018). Student's perceptions of school safety: It is not just about being bullied. *The Journal of School Nursing, 34*, 319–330.
9. Zych, I., Farrington, D. P., & Ttofi, M. M. (2018). Protective factors against bullying and cyberbullying: A systematic review of meta-analyses. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, Advance publication online*. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2018.06.008>