



Taking Your School’s Temperature: Using Data to Improve School Climate

Course Description: "A school's climate has a direct impact on its students' abilities to achieve. Schools with a positive atmosphere encourage and welcome the participation of faculty, students, and parents, which in turn make the school successful." (from the American School Counselor Association's Taking Your School's Temperature.)

This online course will provide an opportunity to examine what a school climate consists of, look at your individual school's data, and demonstrate how to use this information to make improvements to the overall climate. The course is designed with an emphasis on the roles of school counselors and administrators in using data to change school climate.

Clock Hours / Continuing Education Units: 5

Learning Objectives:

- Identify data sources available for schools
- Develop a data collection tool to be used to answer a need in educational setting
- Evaluate methods for creating a more supportive school climate through data

Course Requirements: To receive full credit for the course, participants must complete ALL assignments. Failure to complete all assignments will result in a non-passing grade

Getting Started:

- After registering for the course, you will be sent an email with the website address, password and course key you need to access your online course, along with login instructions.
- Access each assignment through the course home page. All assignments will be submitted through the Moodle platform on each respective assignment page.
- Please save a backup copy of all course assignments and completed work.

Course Outline:

Lesson Number	Lesson Description	Clock Hours
1	Introductions and Overview: Take the time to get to know the class layout, read over the Help section, and review any other materials present in the class to get started. Take your time!	0.2 hours
2	Why Is Data Important? – Participants will develop a foundational knowledge for what quality data collection looks like and how data can inform stakeholders on the current climate and culture of education. To assess their understanding, participants will complete a short quiz.	0.6 hours
3	Encouraging an Environment of Data Collection – In this lesson, participants will reflect on several resources on data-driven education. They will reflect on the current data-collection practices utilized in their individual schools.	0.6 hours
4	The Challenge of Assessing School Climate – In this lesson, participants will review several articles on the challenges associated with assessing school climate. Participants will reflect on the barriers that exist in their own districts in a discussion post.	0.6 hours
5	What Is Your Question? – Participants will read through Section 1 of <i>Making Data Work</i> . Participants will select a research question to complete their own study.	0.6 hours
6	How Will You Answer Your Question – In this lesson, participants will read Section 2 of <i>Making Data Work</i> . Participants will reflect on the kinds of data that will need to be collected in order to successfully answer their research question	0.6 hours

7	How Will You Make Sense of Your Data? – In this lesson, participants will read through Section 3 of <i>Making Data Work</i> . Participants will reflect on how they will analyze the data they collected, formulate claims, and present their findings.	0.6 hours
8	How Will You Use Your Data? – In this lesson, participants will read through Section 4 of <i>Making Data Work</i> . Participants will describe how they plan to use the data they collected for their research project.	0.6 hours
9	Assessing a School’s Implementation of Multicultural Education – In this lesson, participants will reflect on the approaches for integrating multicultural education into their school curriculum.	0.6 hours
	TOTAL HOURS	5 Hours

Student Requirements and Assessment: No outside materials will be required for the completion of this course. Participants will be required to complete a series of electronic quizzes to assess their understanding. Participants can earn up to 40 points total for the course. Each quiz may be taken up to three times, with the highest score recorded in the final grade. All quizzes must be completed in order to earn credit.

Grading Scale:

100-80% (32-40)	Pass
79%-Below (<32 points)	No Pass

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you are a student with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations for this class, please email academy@iowasafeschools.org or call 515.381.0588.

Professional Development: Prior to purchasing a course registration, it is your responsibility to ensure that National Safe Schools Convening Online Academy coursework satisfies the license renewal requirements for your state and/or district.