

Religious Literacy and Understanding Survey

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your unique perspective as a teacher or administrator will provide valuable information and direction to my pilot project.

The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Throughout the survey I will refer to two terms: “religious literacy” and “religious understanding”. By religious literacy I mean the knowledge of the beliefs, values, practices, symbols, and traditions of the world’s religions. By religious understanding I mean an appreciative knowledge of religious differences to build respect and cross-cultural religations.

Trish Tullman

The first questions concern your perspectives about the students at X School.

1. How often do students at X School...

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
...spend time with students from ethnic or racial groups different than their own?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...interact with students from different religious backgrounds and faith practices different than their own?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...openly share their religious beliefs and practices in the school environment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. How motivated are students at X School to learn about and understand...

	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
...cultures different from their own?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...the religious backgrounds and faith practices of others?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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3. How prepared are students who graduate from X School to problem solve with people from religious backgrounds and faith practices different than their own?

- Not at all prepared
- Slightly prepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Very prepared
- Extremely prepared

The next questions concern your perspectives on school climate and the school's focus on religious literacy and understanding.

4. How often...

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
have you heard or read insensitive comments from students about a specific religion or about a student with a faith background or practice different than their own?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
have school families expressed concern about the school's understanding of and sensitivity to religious differences?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
does the school offer curriculum and programming that teaches for religious literacy and understanding?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
is there an ongoing discussion at the school on how to teach for religious literacy and understanding?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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5. How important is it to teach for religious literacy and understanding at X School?

- Not at all important
- Slightly important
- Somewhat important
- Very important
- Extremely important

6. How interested are faculty at X School to offer more comprehensive curriculum and programming that teaches for religious literacy and understanding?

- Not at all interested
- Slightly interested
- Somewhat interested
- Very interested
- Extremely interested
- Don't know

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7. How prepared are the faculty and administrators at X School to educate students for religious literacy and understanding?

- Not at all prepared
- Slightly prepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Very prepared
- Extremely prepared

8. How often are there divisional or schoolwide opportunities for X School's staff to develop cultural competencies that include development around interreligious understanding?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

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9. How receptive would the school's board of directors be to the idea of curriculum and programming that teaches for religious literacy and understanding?

- Not at all receptive
- Slightly receptive
- Somewhat receptive
- Very receptive
- Extremely receptive
- Don't know

10. How supportive would parents at X School be to curriculum and programming that teaches for religious literacy and understanding?

- Not at all supportive
- Slightly supportive
- Somewhat supportive
- Very supportive
- Extremely supportive
- Don't know

The next questions concern your own perspectives.

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11. How important..

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important
is it to educate for religious literacy and understanding?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
is learning to solve problems with people from different ethnic or racial groups?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
is learning to solve problems with people from different religious backgrounds and faith practices?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Does the U.S. Constitution prohibit public and private non-parochial schools from teaching for religious literacy and understanding?

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Don't know

13. How much should religion, for the purpose of understanding not devotion, be discussed in public and private non-parochial educational settings?

- None
- A little
- Some
- A lot
- Very much

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The next questions concern your experience and preparation.

14. Do you feel prepared to support students from all religious backgrounds, belief systems and faith practices?

- Not at all prepared
- Slightly prepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Very prepared
- Extremely prepared

15. Over the past five years, about how many times have you participated in professional development focused on multicultural education that included development around interreligious understanding?

- Never
- 1 to 2 times
- 3 to 4 times
- 5 to 6 times
- More than 6 times

16. What has been the most significant professional development you have participated in as an educator at X School?

17. Why was it significant?

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18. How would you rate your level of religious literacy?

- Poor
- Below average
- About average
- Above average
- Excellent

19. Have you had specific training in religious studies, religious pluralism and/or interreligious education?

- Yes
- No

20. How relevant was this training to your work at X School?

- Not at all relevant
- Slightly relevant
- Somewhat relevant
- Very relevant
- Extremely relevant

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21. Do you belong to any professional organizations focused on intercultural understanding, which address interreligious issues?

- No
- Yes (Please specify)

The following questions are about your role at X School.

22. What is your primary role at X School?

- Administrator
- Faculty
- Mixed role

23. What grade level(s) do you work with?

- Lower
- Middle
- Upper
- Mixed grade levels

(please specify)

24. How many students are you responsible for in your role?

of students

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25. If you have held other primary roles during your tenure at X School, please list the position(s).

1.
2.
3.

26. If you have secondary responsibilities, such as coaching, Model U.N. or Science Olympiad, at X School, please list those responsibilities.

1.
2.
3.

27. How many years have you been at X School?

of years

28. How many years have you been an educator?

of years

The last questions are general questions about you.

29. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

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30. What is your age?

- 21-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- Over 60

31. What is your ethnic origin?

- Hispanic
- Not Hispanic

32. What is your race? *Please check all that apply.*

- White
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Other (please specify)

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33. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Bachelor's degree or a 4-year college degree
- Some graduate work
- Master's degree
- Advanced degree such as a PhD, a Law degree or a Medical degree

34. What type of high school did you attend?

- Public
- Private/Independent
- Parochial
- Mixed

35. What is your religious tradition?

- Christian
- Jewish
- Buddhist
- Muslim
- Hindu
- Spiritual but not religious
- Not religious
- Other (please specify)

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36. What was the religious tradition of your family growing up?

- Christian
- Jewish
- Buddhist
- Muslim
- Hindu
- Spiritual but not religious
- Not religious
- Other (please specify)

37. Other than English, what languages can you speak?

- I do not speak any other languages.
- I speak the following languages (please specify)

38. Outside of school, which language do you speak most often with friends and family?

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39. What countries have you lived in outside of the U.S.?

- I have not lived outside of the U.S.
- I have lived in the following countries (please specify)

40. Outside of the U.S., which countries have you studied in or traveled to the past 10 years?

- I have not traveled or studied outside of the U.S. in the past 10 years.
- I have traveled or studied in the following countries outside of the U.S. in the past 10 years (please specify)

Thank you for your time and your thoughtful consideration of these questions.