



**Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning Maryland
TELL Maryland Survey**

Maryland Teaching and Learning Conditions Survey

Statement of Coalition Partners

The Maryland teaching and learning conditions survey (Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning Maryland Survey; TELL Maryland Survey) partners want to ensure that every Maryland educator works in, and every student attends, a school that is a great place in which to teach and learn. Research from across the country has demonstrated that the presence of important 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 achievement.

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

The TELL Maryland Survey partners are committed to:

- The privacy of all survey respondents. The survey will be anonymous 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 communicating to members the purpose and importance of the initiative and encouraging survey participation.
- Conveying that the purpose of the survey is to drive school improvement, not the discipline of 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 amongst constituent members. If data are used inappropriately or violations of the intent of the survey initiative are found, partners will 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 in order 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 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 are 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.
- Sharing this statement with members so that all will understand the purpose of the survey and the appropriate use of the data.

NOTE: This document is scheduled to be signed by the Governor' office and the partners listed below:

Patricia Gordon, President, Maryland Association of Boards of Education

Robert Wagner, President, Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals

Thomas Evans, President, Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals

James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President, Maryland State Board of Education

Nancy S. Grasmick, Superintendent of Schools, Maryland State Department of Education

Clara B. Floyd, President, Maryland State Teachers Association

Karen Salmon, President, Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland

Lorretta Johnson, President, American Federation of Teachers-Maryland