



Fieldcrest C.U.S.D. #6

1 Dornbush Drive Minonk, IL 61760

Phone: 309.432.2177

Fax: 309.432.3377

www.unit6.org

Dr. Daniel L. Oakley
Superintendent

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

School Environment Matters: Fieldcrest CUSD 6 Administers Seventh Illinois 5Essentials Survey to Improve Student Learning

Students, teachers and parents weigh in on school climate and learning conditions

December 3, 2018 – Fieldcrest CUSD 6 will join the [Illinois State Board of Education](http://www.isbe.net) (ISBE) in the seventh statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions. The survey provides a unique opportunity for students, teachers and parents to have a voice in improving their schools. From December 11 through January 18, students and teachers will be asked to take a 25 -minute research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school’s learning environment. The parent survey supplement opened October 23 and will be administered through January 18. These surveys will serve as an opportunity for schools to reflect on progress since the last statewide implementation.

“We encourage all our teachers, students, and parents to make their voices heard. The stronger the participation rate for our parents, the better the data we have to consider constructive change for our district and schools.”

[The Illinois 5Essentials Survey](#) provides a comprehensive picture of a school’s organizational culture in an individualized report measuring five “essentials” critical for school success:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environment
- Ambitious Instruction

Twenty years of research at the University of Chicago in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of the 5Essentials were 10 times more likely to make substantial gains in improving student reading and math than schools that were weak on three or more of the Essentials. Those differences remained true even after controlling for student and school characteristics, including poverty, race, gender, and neighborhood characteristics. Strength on components within the Essentials also correlated with increased teacher retention, student attendance, college enrollment, and high school graduation.

Generated from a rigorous analysis of student and teacher survey responses, 5Essentials Reports demonstrate that what students and teachers say about their schools can serve as important indicators for school success. In the inaugural 2012-2013 statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey, 87 percent of all schools in the state met the 50-percent

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| Fieldcrest High School, 1 Dornbush Drive, Minonk IL 61760 | 309-432-2529 |
| Fieldcrest Middle School, 192 West Elm Street, Wenona IL 61377 | 815-853-4331 |
| Fieldcrest Intermediate School, 306 North Maple Street, Toluca IL 61369 | 815-452-2318 |
| Fieldcrest Primary School, 523 North Johnson Street, Minonk IL 61760 | 309-432-2838 |

participation threshold to receive a 5Essentials Report, with participation from more than 70 percent of all teachers and eligible 6th through 12th graders across Illinois.

All district schools are required to participate in a school learning conditions survey every year. Starting in school year 2018-19, the survey will be required annually. The survey was deemed an important component to balanced accountability under the state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan by stakeholders, which resulted in state legislative changes requiring the survey annually.

Fieldcrest CUSD 6 will participate in the statewide 2018-19 5Essentials Survey to meet state legislation and the Board's mandate, and will administer the survey to learn how schools are doing on the 5Essentials for school success.

Principals and superintendents will receive their 5Essentials Reports in March 2019. Survey results will also be reported publicly on the 5Essentials reporting site in Spring 2019 and on the [State School Report Card website](#) in Fall 2019. An optional parent survey is again available to all schools as a supplement to the 5Essentials Survey for teachers and students—results from the parent survey supplement will be included only in the individual school 5Essential Reports. Since 2013-14, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey has been normed using the 2012-13 statewide results so that all schools can demonstrate progress over time.

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, [UChicago Impact](#) is providing Illinois 5Essentials to schools statewide. Teachers, students, and parents may complete the Illinois 5Essentials Survey online. For more information visit: www.5-essentials.org/illinois.

Sincerely,



Dr. Daniel L Oakley
Superintendent
doakley@unit6.org
Fieldcrest Community Unit School District #6
1 Dornbush Drive
Minonk, IL 61760-1363

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