

**Let Your Voice Be Heard:
Students as Partners in Urban School Reform**

Student Survey

**Indianapolis Public Schools
October 2004**

**Harmony VISTA Service Learning Demonstration Project
CIRCLE Student-led Research 2004-2005**

SCRIPT FOR HANDING OUT AND COLLECTION SURVEYS

Good morning. My name is _____. As you may already know, a group of students from our school is conducting research on student attitudes and opinions about the transition to small schools next year. This research is an opportunity for you to tell the adults involved in planning the small schools about your needs for success in school and how you want to be involved in making your education better. Once you get the survey, please **do not** open it or start filling it out until directions are given.

At this time, the student representative or researcher hands out the survey.

Participating in this research is voluntary, meaning you can choose whether or not to fill it out. This research is also anonymous. Please do not write your name anywhere on the survey. I repeat, do not write your name anywhere on this survey. Please read the informed consent form on the front of this survey at this time. If you choose to participate in the research by filling out the survey, please check the appropriate box at the bottom of the page. Do NOT sign your name. If you choose not to participate, please check that you do not agree to fill out the survey. **[Do not read the following sentence if you're speaking to an ESL or ENL class]** If you feel more comfortable filling out the consent form and survey in Spanish, please raise your hand.

Give students 1-2 minutes to read and fill out the informed consent form. When everyone is finished, say the following:

If you are filling out the survey, please use a #2 pencil or blue or black pen. Indicate your answers with an "x". If you mark a box and then decide to change your answer, erase that mark if you're using a pencil and mark your new answer with an "x". If you're using a pen mark your new answer and circle it to indicate that it is the answer you want. If at any time, you do not wish to answer a question, you can skip that question. Also, after your start if you don't want to complete the survey, that is okay. Just turn the survey over on your desk and sit quietly at your desk until everyone is finished.

If you are not filling out this survey, please sit quietly at your desk until everyone is finished.

Please fill out this survey as honestly and accurately as possible. Do not write your name on it. If you have any questions, please raise your hand and your teacher or I [student researcher] will help answer your question. When you are done completing the survey, please turn it over on your desk. When everyone is finished, I will give you further directions. Please begin now.

Students take the survey. When all students are done taking the survey, say the following:

Please tear off the half sheet of paper at the back of this survey. This debrief is yours to keep. If you have questions about this survey or research, you can contact the researchers on this sheet. At this time please pass your surveys, face down, to the front of the room.

Collect the surveys and place them in the envelope and seal it.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey. You're opinions make a difference! Thank you and have a great day!

Take the envelope to the drop off location written below BEFORE you go back to class.

MINI AUDITORIUM

**Harmony/VISTA Service Learning Demonstration Project:
Exploring the Effects of Student Engagement in Urban School Reform
Harmony/VISTA
21 Virginia Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 501-2985**

October 2004

This research is being led by students at my school and by researchers from the University of Indianapolis. The purpose of this survey is to find out what students know, think and feel about the school's possible transition to small schools next year. Researchers also want to know what students think and feel about being involved in this school change process.

If I choose to participate in this study, I have been informed that I will fill out a survey. This survey is anonymous which means that I will not put my name anywhere on it and I will not be identified in any way. Participation is voluntary and there will be no penalty if I choose not to participate. I have been informed that the survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

I have been informed that my answers will help school planners understand student thoughts, opinions, and needs to make this school a better place. I have been informed that the results of this survey may not benefit me directly. There may be potential benefit to others as a result of the knowledge gained from my participation.

I have been informed that my decision to participate, refusal to participate, or decision to withdraw from the study will not negatively affect me in any way.

If I need help filling out this survey, I have been informed that I can ask my teacher or another trusted adult who can help me better understand it or who can read the survey to me. If I feel more comfortable filling out this survey in Spanish, a Spanish version of the survey will be provided.

I have been informed that if there is a question on the survey that I feel uncomfortable answering, I can skip that question. Also, if at any point I feel uncomfortable filling out this survey, I can choose to stop and sit quietly while my classmates finish the survey.

I have been informed that if I choose not to take this survey, I have the option of sitting quietly at my desk or working on class work, and that I will not get in trouble for doing so.

If there are any questions about this research or survey, please contact Megan Howey at 501-2985 or mhowey@harmonyschool.org or Dr. Ruth Green at 791-5913 or rgreen@uindy.edu.

Please check whether you agree to participate in this study.

_____ I agree to fill out this survey.

_____ I do not agree to fill out this survey, and I will sit quietly while my classmates complete their surveys.

When you are finished, place your survey face down on your desk and wait for your teacher's instruction to pass your survey to the front of the room.

Survey of I.P.S. High School Students: Fall 2004

1. Think about the **TEACHERS** you have had at this school. How much do you agree with the following statements about them?

The teachers I have had at this school...	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a. believe that <u>all</u> students in this school can do well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. have given up on some of their students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. care about only the smart students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. expect very little from the students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. work hard to make sure that all students are learning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Now think about the **ONE TEACHER** or **ONE OTHER ADULT** in your school **WHO KNOWS YOU BEST**. Please indicate how much this person knows about you.

How much does this teacher or other adult in your school know about...

	<i>Nothing</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>A lot</i>
a. what you are interested in?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. how well you are doing in school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. who your friends are?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. what your life at home is like?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. what you want to do after high school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Now think about **ALL** the **TEACHERS** and **ALL** the **OTHER ADULTS** in your school, including the principal, counselors, secretaries, librarians, and teacher aides. How many of these adults have done or would be willing to do the following this year?

How many of the adults in your school...

	<i>No adults</i>	<i>1 adult</i>	<i>2 or 3 adults</i>	<i>4 or 5 adults</i>	<i>6 or more adults</i>
a. would be willing to give you extra help with your schoolwork if you needed it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. would be willing to help you with a personal problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. really care about how well you are doing in school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. have helped you think about whether you are meeting the requirements for graduation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. have helped you think about what you need to do to prepare for college or for a career?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. During the school year, how often have the following things happened?

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Once in a while</i>	<i>Half the time</i>	<i>Most of the time</i>	<i>All the time</i>
a. When I work on a topic at school, I am able to spend enough time on it to understand it really well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. My teachers expect me to learn some topics well enough to teach others about them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Think about all the **STUDENTS** in your school. How much do you agree with the following statements about them?

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a. Many students in this school don't respect one another.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. There are groups of students in this school who don't get along.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Students feel comfortable saying what they think, even if it is different from what other students say.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Students in this school respect what other students say, even when they disagree with them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. How much do you agree with the following statements?

Strongly disagree *Disagree* *Agree* *Strongly agree*

- a. I feel like I am a real part of this school.
- b. I don't fit in with most of the other students in this school.
- c. I participate in a lot of activities in this school.
- d. People in this school are like family to me.
- e. I feel like an outsider at this school.
- f. People notice if I'm not at school.

7. Right now, what is your best guess about how far you will go in school?

- Leave high school before graduation
- Graduate from high school
- Get some college or other training
- Complete a job-training program (such as a technical school or military training)
- Graduate from a 2-year community college
- Graduate from a 4-year college
- Graduate from a college and take further training (such as graduate school)

Question 8 is for JUNIORS AND SENIORS ONLY.
If you are a Freshman or Sophomore, please skip to Question 9.

8. During this school year, have you received any of the following at your school?

- | | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No, my school does not offer this</i> | <i>No, I was not interested</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| a. Encouragement to take a college admissions or placement test (for example, SAT, ACT, Advanced Placement exam) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Help with vocational/technical school or college applications | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Help with financial aid forms | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Information about colleges or universities that might meet your specific needs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Information about scholarships and loans that could help you afford college | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

9. During this school year, how often did the following things happen while you were doing your schoolwork?

- | | <i>Never</i> | <i>Once in a while</i> | <i>Half the time</i> | <i>Most of the time</i> | <i>All the time</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. I got frustrated and gave up when my schoolwork became too hard. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. When my schoolwork became difficult, I found a way to get help. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. I gave extra effort to challenging assignments or projects. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. I kept trying to do well on my schoolwork, even when it wasn't interesting to me. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

10. During this school year, how often did the following things happen while you were doing your schoolwork?

- | | <i>Never</i> | <i>Once in a while</i> | <i>Half the time</i> | <i>Most of the time</i> | <i>All the time</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. I tried really hard to do a good job. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. I really found my schoolwork interesting. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. I really did not care too much about my schoolwork. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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11. How much do you agree with the following statements about yourself?

I am good at...	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a. asking teachers for help when I get stuck on schoolwork.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. working in a group with other students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. taking part in class or group discussions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. understanding what I read.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. writing papers or stories.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. learning math.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. During the school year, how often have you done the following?

This school year, I have...

	<i>Never</i>	<i>A few times this year</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Almost every day</i>
a. talked to my family about what I am working on in school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. asked my friends for advice about something I am working on in school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. come to school without completing readings, assignments, or project tasks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. worked with classmates outside of class or school on schoolwork.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. asked my teachers to meet with me to talk about grades, assignments, or my work on projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. cut or skipped classes or school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. In the last four weeks, how many days were you absent when school was in session? (Count all days missed, including those for which you had permission from your family or school.)

- None 1-3 days 4-6 days 7-9 days 10 or more days

14. Each large high school in IPS is currently planning to break into small schools. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about small schools?

I think that small schools will...	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>I don't know</i>
a. allow time for teachers to work with individual students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. allow students and teachers to do interesting classroom activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. help students make better grades.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. help parents to be more involved.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. help students to be more involved.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. help students to feel safer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. allow teachers to spend more time with students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. encourage better attendance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. help more students graduate from high school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. prepare more students to attend college.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. help students feel like they are a real part of the school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. help students adapt to life after high school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

15. I am... Male Female

16. What grade are you in? 9th 10th 11th 12th

17. Mark below **ALL** the adults who live in your home **most** of the time.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stepmother | <input type="checkbox"/> Brothers and sisters older than 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stepfather | <input type="checkbox"/> Other adults older than 18 (NOT your sister or brother) |

18. How far did your mother go in school? If you live with a stepmother, grandmother, aunt, or other adult who acts as your mother, please answer for her.

- Did not graduate from high school
 Graduated from high school, but did not go to college
 Went to college, but did not graduate
 Graduated from college
 I don't know

19. How far did your father go in school? If you live with a stepfather, grandfather, uncle, or other adult who acts as your father, please answer for him.

- Did not graduate from high school
 Graduated from high school, but did not go to college
 Went to college, but did not graduate
 Graduated from college
 I don't know

20. How do you describe yourself?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 American Indian or Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Black or African American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Other: please specify _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Hispanic or Latino | |

21. What Small Learning Community (SLC) do you belong to?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-Science/Technology/Engr./Mfg. (STEAM) | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Business Finance /Mktg./ Entrepreneurship (FAME) | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Health/Education/Life & Public Services (HELPS) | <input type="checkbox"/> 5-SAFE | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Arts and Communication Technology (ACT) | <input type="checkbox"/> 6-I do not belong to an SLC | <input type="checkbox"/> 9-I don't know |

22. What are your questions or concerns about Small Learning Communities or small schools?

This survey is sponsored by the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) and the Harmony Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) project. The content was developed by American Institutes of Research (AIR)/SRI International for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Small Schools Initiative.