

# YouthTruth

USING STUDENT SURVEY DATA TO INFORM SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT AND TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS

Overview

February 2012

For more information: [www.youthtruthsurvey.org](http://www.youthtruthsurvey.org)



THE CENTER FOR  
EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY

Better Data. Better Decisions. Better Philanthropy.

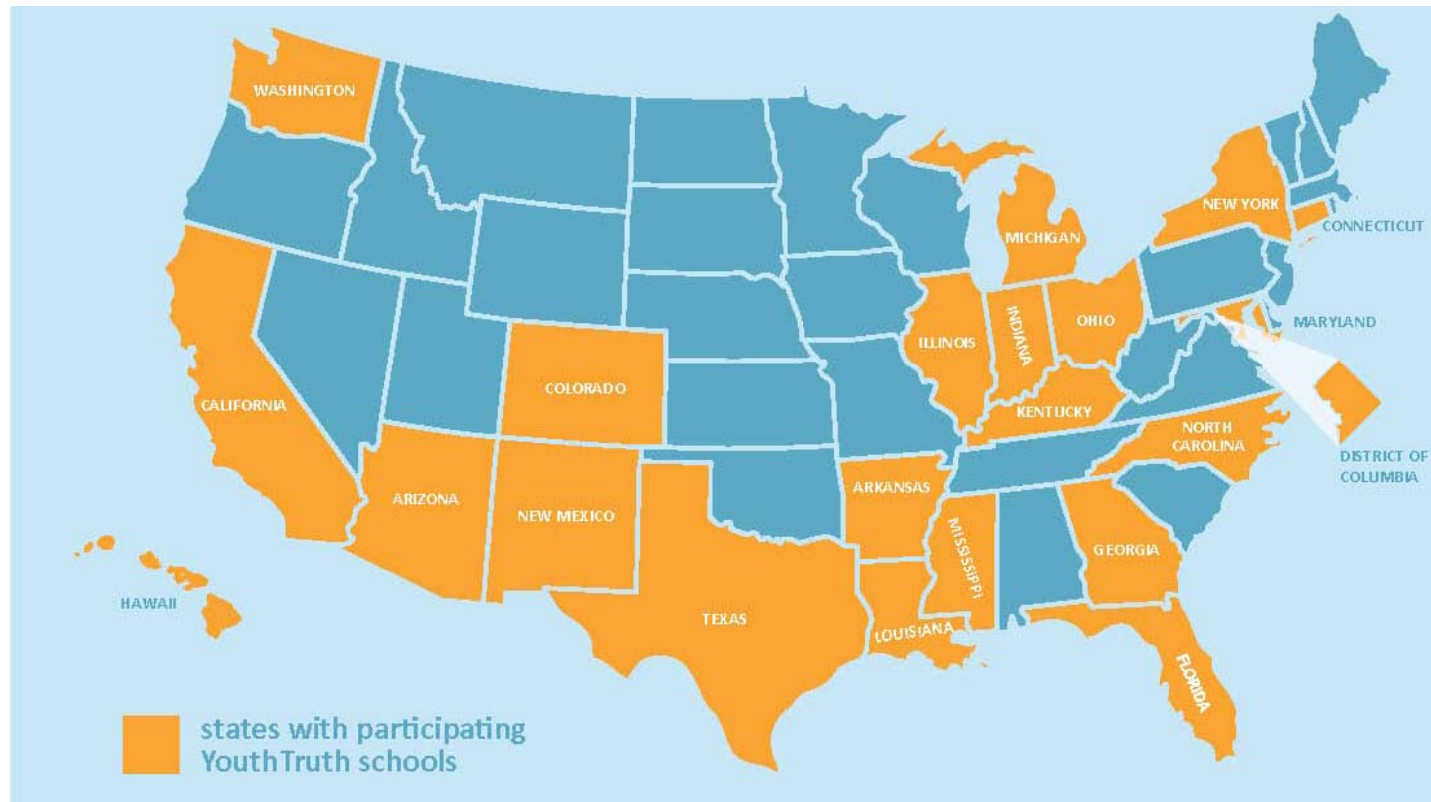


# YouthTruth is a national student survey project that gathers rigorous, comparative, and actionable student feedback

160,000 students

220+ unique schools

41 districts & networks



# Audiences Served by YouthTruth

## PHILANTHROPIC FUNDERS

EAST BAY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

STUART FOUNDATION

INVESTING IN CHILDREN & YOUTH TO CREATE LIFELONG IMPACT

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation

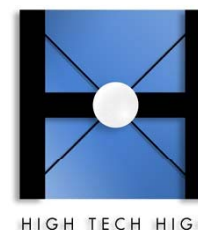


## SCHOOL NETWORKS AND DISTRICTS

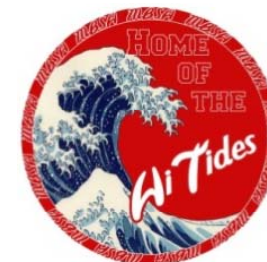


New Tech Network

A subsidiary of KnowledgeWorks



## HIGH SCHOOLS



# YouthTruth Survey Content

Student feedback at the school level...

## School Level

Results Segmented by Grade and by Department

### School Culture

*Most adults in this school treat students with respect.  
Have you considered dropping out of school? Why?*

### Student-Teacher Relationships

*How many of your teachers make an effort to  
understand what your life is like outside of school?*

### Preparedness for the Future

*My school has helped me develop the skills and  
knowledge I will need to succeed in college-level  
classes.*

### Rigor of Classes and Instruction

*My teachers connect what I am learning in class to life  
outside the classroom.*

At the individual teacher/classroom level...

## Teacher Level

Results Segmented by Teacher and by Classroom

### YouthTruth Rigor and Relationship Questions

*The work that I do in this class really makes me think.  
My teacher understands the subject that he/she is  
teaching.*

### Questions from the Measures of Effective Teaching Study\*

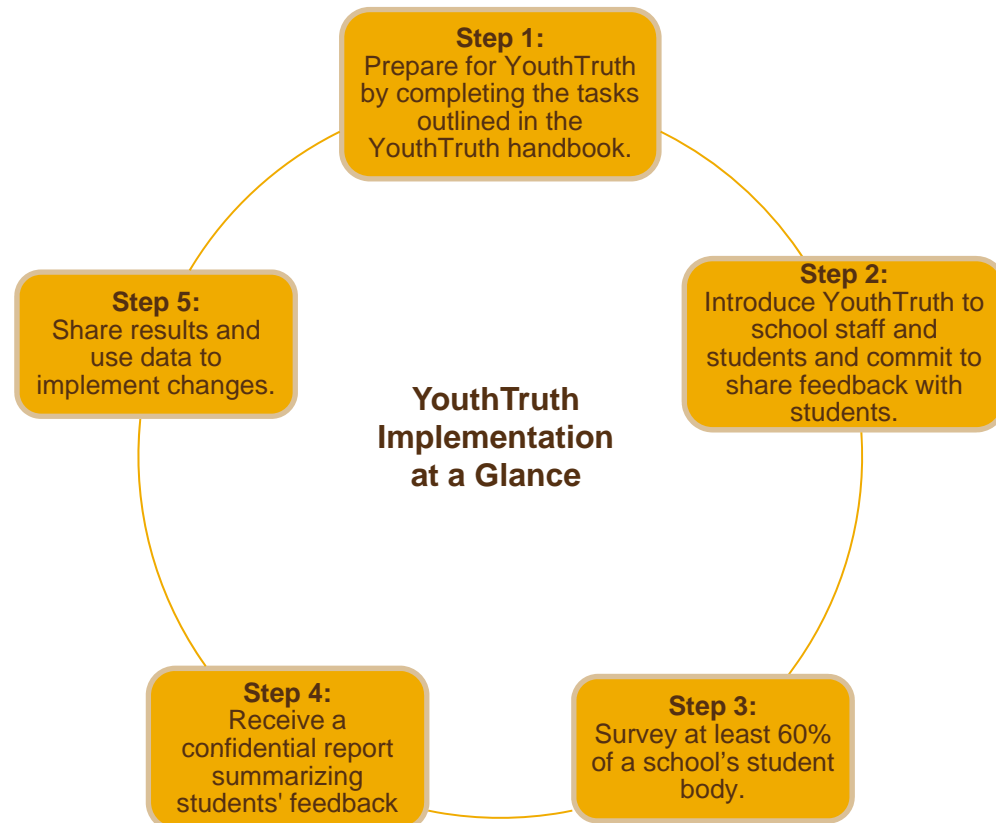
*Our class stays busy and doesn't waste time.  
My teacher wants us to use our thinking skills, not just  
memorize things.*

\* The Teacher Level Module of the YouthTruth survey contains selected publicly available questions from the Gates Foundation's Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) study.

# What Participants Receive

**YouthTruth provides wraparound support and analytic expertise to help schools, districts, and states gain valuable insight about students' experiences.**

- ✓ Materials and support for administering surveys, interpreting results, and responding to the data
- ✓ Complete statistical analysis
- ✓ Individual and aggregate reports for schools and districts
- ✓ Confidential conference call to discuss results
- ✓ Connections to other school leaders accessing student feedback at the whole school and individual teacher level





## Key Differentiators of the YouthTruth Survey

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- ❖ **YouthTruth provides detailed comparative data in a user-friendly format**
  - Compare students' perspectives by teacher
  - Compare schools to others in the same district/network and to national sample
  - Compare districts and portfolios of schools
- ❖ **Youth Truth engages staff and students at multiple touch points to make the data “stick”**
  - Close feedback loop with students
  - Employ comprehensive sharing process with school leaders
  - Position school leaders to respond to feedback

# Feedback That Leads to Change

- ❖ In an independent evaluation, 98% of participants had used or had plans to use YouthTruth data to make specific changes (2010)
- ❖ 92% of repeat schools said that YouthTruth data had informed changes in their school's decision-making or processes (2011)

Area with Lower Ratings	Schools' Responses
Student-teacher relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advisory and mentoring programs</li><li>• Professional development</li></ul>
School culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modification of discipline policies</li><li>• Focus on adult culture issues</li></ul>
Future preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Realign college counseling resources</li></ul>
Rigor of classes and instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Curriculum alignment</li><li>• New course offerings</li><li>• Revised grading systems</li><li>• Staffing decisions</li></ul>

# YouthTruth Offerings in the 2012-13 School Year

## Flexible, Adaptable Survey Platform

### Core YouthTruth Survey

Gather feedback on students' comprehensive school experience

(In Place)

### Teacher-Level Module

Gather data on students' experience with specific teachers/classrooms

(In Place)

### Customized Add-On Modules

- School safety
- Student ownership
- Access to technology

(Available 2012-13)

### Additional Customization/ Service Additions Per Request

More extensive customization for a fee

(Available 2012-13)

- ❖ Focus on high schools and middle schools
- ❖ Scalable and streamlined reporting
  - Flexible timing of survey rounds
  - Quicker turnaround times
  - Access to shared best practices and insights across schools