

## Measuring the Hope, Engagement, and Well-Being of America's Students

For over 40 years, the Gallup Education Practice has provided its expertise and tools to school districts across the United States which drive student success. Gallup is now adding the voice of America's youth to the dialogue around how to ensure a positive future for all American students. Only about 7 in 10 students earn a high school diploma. It is time to hear what American students feel about their lives at home, at school, and in their communities.

The Gallup Student Poll is a landmark new measure that captures our youth's voice, a critical but too often missing part of the national dialogue surrounding dropout prevention and college readiness. The poll gives students a forum to express the opportunities and challenges in their daily lives, and supplies teachers, administrators, and community leaders with an accurate, useful, and holistic picture of their students and the outcomes they desire.

The Gallup Student Poll will track for 10 years the hope, engagement, and well-being of students in grades 5 through 12 across the United States. Through a Web-based survey administered in the fall and spring of each school year, cities and school districts are partnering with Gallup and America's Promise Alliance to gather sound, actionable data that can explain and address the dropout crisis.

The youth voice is a critical, missing part of the national dialogue about the dropout crisis, and the Gallup Student

Poll gives America's youth a means to convey their daily experiences and aspirations for the future. Research has shown that hope, engagement, and well-being are positioned as actionable targets and indicators of success, with links to grades, achievement scores, retention, and future employment. Poll data facilitates new family, school, and community conversations and solutions that lead to community engagement and school and student success.

### Free, Online, and Confidential

The Gallup Student Poll is free and confidential. The poll is administered and the results aggregated and analyzed by Gallup, with no lag reporting of results. Primary account users for the district and schools are provided access to their results online. The poll is conducted twice a year, in the fall and spring, and is available in English or Spanish. Schools are responsible for scheduling students in grades 5 through 12 to take the

survey during school hours on Internet-accessible computers. Completion of the survey questions, demographics items, and one randomly assigned index item will take the average student under 10 minutes to complete. The survey is accessible via a secure online account created by a designated project leader in each district and/or school.

The Gallup Student Poll launched in March 2009. Gallup surveyed 70,078 students in grades 5 through 12 from 335 schools and 59 districts located in 18 states and the District of Columbia. The online poll was completed on school computers during one of four March fielding options; polls were open Tuesday through Friday during school hours. For the second administration of the Gallup Student Poll in October 2009, Gallup polled 246,628 students. To date, students in 38 states and the District of Columbia have participated in the Gallup Student Poll.

**Hope** — the ideas and energy we have for the future. Hope drives attendance, credits earned, and GPA of high school students. Hope predicts GPA and retention in college, and hope scores are more robust predictors of college success than are high school GPA, SAT, and ACT scores.

**Engagement** — the involvement in and enthusiasm for school. Engagement distinguishes between high-performing and low-performing schools.

**Well-Being** — how we think about and experience our lives. Well-being tells us how our students are doing today and predicts their success in the future. High school freshmen with high well-being earn more credits with a higher GPA than peers with low well-being. Specifically, the typical student who is thriving earns 10% more credits and a 2.9 GPA (out of 4.0), whereas a student with low well-being, completing fewer credits, earns a 2.4 GPA.

## Key Findings From the Gallup Student Poll

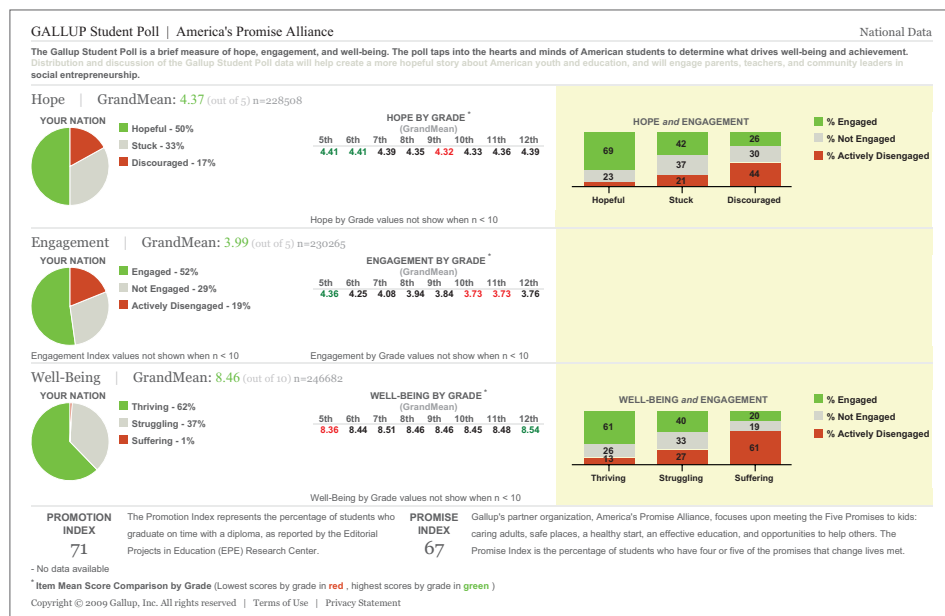
Half of students are hopeful; these students possess numerous ideas and abundant energy for the future. The other half of students are stuck or discouraged, lacking the ideas and energy they need to navigate problems and reach goals.

About half of students are engaged; they are highly involved with and enthusiastic about school. The other half of students are either going through the motions at school or actively undermining the teaching and learning process.

Nearly two-thirds of students are thriving; they think about their present and future life in positive terms, and they tend to be in good health and have strong social support. Just over one-third of students are struggling or suffering.

## Gallup Student Poll Participation

It is easy to participate in the Gallup Student Poll, and districts and schools may now register an account at the Gallup Student Poll Web site and choose a field period for the spring administration. If your district or school has previously registered an account, the primary administrative user may log in and choose one of three field periods to administer the survey. If your district is participating for the first time, a district representative must create an account. The registration process requires the



Each school/district will receive a scorecard displaying their Gallup Student Poll results. The scorecard will show the percentage of hopeful, engaged, and thriving students. Above is the national report with the second administration's results of nearly a quarter million U.S. students.

### Field Periods for the Spring Include:

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 through Friday, March 19, 2010

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 through Friday, March 26, 2010

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 through Friday, April 2, 2010

Note: The survey will be available Tuesday through Friday during school hours only.

user to enter the district's national district ID, which may be obtained at <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch>. (For more information, download the Gallup Student Poll Manual at [www.gallupstudentpoll.com](http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com). The manual is located in the Gallup Student Poll Library under the Resources section.)

### Why Participate

The Gallup Student Poll gives American students a voice. It also provides schools

and communities with meaningful data about their students. With this new information, communities can expand discussions about solutions to the dropout crisis. Involved youth, concerned parents, educators, after-school program staff, and business and community leaders are charged with the goals of doubling hope, building engaged schools, boosting well-being, and raising the graduation rate.

**Contact Information:** If you would like to learn more about implementing Gallup's Engaged Schools initiative in your district or school, contact Gallup's Education Practice at [education\\_practice@gallup.com](mailto:education_practice@gallup.com), or visit our Web site at <http://education.gallup.com>.