

## MSFE Newsletter: March 2014

### News & Updates

In the spirit of daylight savings, we hope this month's newsletter will shed more light on student perception surveys, an important part of your MSFE educator evaluation and professional growth program. Districts are administering student perception surveys this month.

#### **Classroom observations alone are not enough.**

While classroom observations have traditionally been the primary method of gathering evidence about instructional effectiveness, no observer has more direct experience observing instruction than the students in the classroom. The Tripod 7C student survey instrument used by all MSFE districts is designed to capture key dimensions of classroom life and teaching practice as students experience them.

The 7C survey asks students to provide feedback on specific aspects of the classroom experience organized around seven elements of teaching practice - Care, Challenge, Control, Clarify, Captivate, Confer, and Consolidate. The questions use Likert-scale response options, and focus on specific statements such as "Our class stays busy and doesn't waste time." In addition, the survey asks students to assess their level of engagement around elements such as trust, cooperation, ambitiousness, and diligence.

**Making the most of your survey results.** Within 6 weeks of administering the survey each teacher will receive a personal summary report. The results presented in this report will provide fodder for personal reflection, professional goal setting and action planning to improve student learning and growth outcomes.

We look forward to supporting you through a smooth survey administration and helping you to make the most of the results.

Sincerely,  
Scott, Sue and Deb

### Resources

- **7C's Reporting: What do I need to know?**

Here are links to resources that should provide you with helpful answers to this question:

**Sample Report:** each teacher will receive their own report with comparative data from across the district. Watch this video to learn more about the sample report  
<http://tripodproject.org/reports/>

**Tripod 7C Student Perception Survey** website with more information on the 7C survey including a video recording.

- **Student survey questions:** if you have questions regarding the student surveys in your district, contact your MSFE project coordinator.

Feel free to send your questions to the MSFE team ([msfe@maine.gov](mailto:msfe@maine.gov)) for feedback.

- Lastly, here is a quote from a TIF3 administrator about the value his district places on the Tripod 7C student perception survey.

***"This will be the third year our district has administered the student survey. It serves as one of the multiple measures in our educator evaluation and professional growth program and also in our recognition and reward program. Its greatest value comes in helping teachers reflect on student perceptions and improve teaching and learning in the classroom."***

- **Bill Webster, Superintendent,  
Lewiston Public Schools**

## 7C's: Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** How do you ensure the survey is not a popularity contest?

**A:** The items on the student surveys do not ask students to identify a teacher as “effective” or “ineffective.” Instead, the survey items seek levels of agreement with descriptive statements about what is happening in the classroom. For example, “*Students in this class treat the teacher with respect,*” or “*If you don’t understand something, my teacher explains it another way,*” or “*My teacher doesn’t let people give up when the work gets hard.*” Survey items such as these are observational (allowing students to record what they experience), rather than judgmental (asking students what they like and dislike).

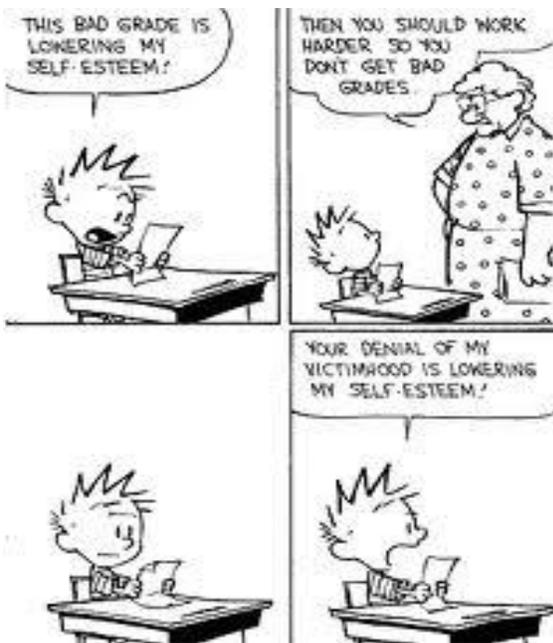
**Q:** How valid are these student surveys? What methods are used to assess the effectiveness and validity of the surveys?

**A:** The primary way to establish validity is to show that student surveys are correlated with other measures of teaching quality for the same classroom. Demonstrating relationships between student surveys and other measures of teaching quality was a major component of the Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Project. There were six districts nationwide involved in the MET Project, which studied the relationships between observational rubrics, student survey responses, and value-added achievement gains. The findings showed that *Tripod* survey assessments are valid measures, correlated with observation rubrics and predictive of achievement gains. The MET Project reports can be found online at [www.METProject.org](http://www.METProject.org).

Do you have a question you would like to see answered here? Email it to [msfe@maine.gov](mailto:msfe@maine.gov).

**Quote of the Month:** *"The best part about the 7C survey for me is the perspective I get from my students concerning classroom climate and my teaching."*

-Karen Dubois, Classroom Teacher,  
MSAD 24



## Test your 7C Survey Knowledge

Test your knowledge of the 7C student perception survey with these four questions! Answers can be found in the box below.

- 1. What are constructs that make-up the 7Cs?**
  - a. Care, Challenge, Control, Clarify, Captivate, Confer, Cooperate
  - b. Care, Challenge, Control, Clarify, Captivate, Confer, Consolidate
  - c. Care, Challenge, Control, Confer, Clarify, Consider, Consolidate
  - d. None of the above
- 2. True or False:** The survey question, “In this class, my teacher accepts nothing less than our full effort improvement” corresponds to the 7C element ‘Confer.’
- 3. True or False:** Student perceptions of instructional practices help identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching, providing detailed feedback about what students experience every day.
- 4. Which of the 7C elements have the greatest influence on student achievement?**
  - a. Challenge and Control
  - b. Confer and Control
  - c. Care and Captivate
  - d. None of the above

1=b; 2=False (Challenge); 3=True; 4=a