

Overview: The Whole Child Inventory Suite



WHOLE-CHILD DESIGN BLUEPRINT

The Whole-Child Design Blueprint provides a structure (a way to think about, organize and integrate educational practices) and content on what is non-negotiable in settings designed for equitable whole child learning and development. Each component is scientifically grounded in a substantial body of research from diverse fields. All are vital, but the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. The components of the Blueprint are interdependent and when intentionally developed and integrated, they create settings rich in protective factors that ignite the developing brain, promote wellness and protect children from the damaging effects of stress all at the same time.

The five components are: **Whole Child Purpose, Supportive Environment, Developmental Relationships, Knowledge Skill and Mindset Building, and Shared Leadership and Ownership**. Within components are a set of thirteen core practices intended to guide the development of a long-term coordinated approach to create integrated developmental settings that support learning and thriving. Key themes cross and integrate the core practices including an understanding that students are active agents in their own learning, recognition of socio-cultural-historical context and an awareness that creating better conditions for learning and development must build from the needs and assets of the young people who have been most marginalized by the system and directly address institutional racism and discrimination based on race, class, language, disability, and/or gender.

For educators who commit to a whole child approach for school design and practice, a strong first step is to examine and reflect on all of the existing systems and practices in place and identify strengths and growth areas. The Whole Child Inventories (WCI) are a suite of measurement tools designed to prompt that reflection and spark new thinking by signaling specific high-leverage areas within each core component that research shows support healthy whole child development in educational settings. **Three versions of the Whole Child Inventory are available for use: School WCI, Classroom WCI, and Student WCI.** The three WCI tools vary slightly in their purpose/use, item wording, and intended audience, but all three include a comprehensive set of evidence-based indicators of a school designed to support whole child learning and thriving. A sliding response scale captures how educators or students experience that particular practice or system in their school and items are summed for a scale score. The Inventories are completed online via the Qualtrics survey platform. Respondents receive a WCI data report which highlights areas of strength and areas for growth. Used together, the three versions help leaders of change to capture multiple stakeholder experiences of existing school conditions and practices, creating a useful and equitable 360 degree view of strengths to leverage and growth areas to target.

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School WCI

Schoolwide Perceptions of School Conditions and Practices

The School WCI is designed to help staff across a school community reflect on the existing conditions of their school and determine which key systems and practices are strengths and which may be important focus areas for improvement.

The WCI is administered to a sample of individuals across the school, who reflect on their individual experiences. Responses are aggregated into a school-wide WCI report, which school teams review and discuss to create action plans for improvement.

- For all school staff (leaders, teachers, student support staff, instructional support staff)
- The School WCI is comprised of 13 core practice areas and 47 indicators or items
- Respond on a sliding scale, ranging from 0 (Not at all True) to 100 (Completely True)
- Sample item: *Our school's goals focus on holistic student development, not just academic proficiency*

Classroom WCI

Teacher Reflections for Individual Practice

The Classroom WCI supports teachers in applying a whole child lens to their individual practice and prompt new thinking about the conditions they create in their classrooms. Indicators are reflective of practices, behaviors and action that occur in classrooms.

- For classroom teachers
- The Classroom WCI is comprised of 10 core practice areas and 32 indicators or items
- Respond on a sliding scale, ranging from 0 (Not at all True) to 100 (Completely True)
- Sample item: *In my classroom, I prioritize holistic student development, not just academic proficiency.*

Student WCI

Student Perceptions of School Conditions and Educator Practices

Having a student-centered school means valuing and respecting students as active, contributing community members. **The Student WCI leverages the power of student voice by capturing students' experiences of existing school conditions and educator practices,** which can be different than those of the educators in the learning environment.

- For students grades 6+
- The Student WCI is comprised of 10 core practice areas and 36 indicators or items
- Respond on a sliding scale, ranging from 0 (Not at all True) to 10 (Completely True)
- Ideally administered to a sample of at least 10 students
- Sample item: *My school cares about my growth as a person, not just about my grades.*