



Introduction to School Citizenship Climate

Education Commission
of the **S**tates

In addition to helping students achieve academically, schools also serve as places where students understand and commit to political and civic engagement. In this role, schools foster an environment that supports the knowledge, skills and dispositions that young people need to develop into politically aware and responsible individuals. (Torney-Purta & Vermeer, 2004). While citizenship education is often explicitly taught in a “civics” course, school climate also plays a role in educating students for citizenship.

School climate refers to the impressions, beliefs, and expectations held by members of the school community and includes the school’s mission statement and the policies that are designed to support the civic mission of education. A positive school climate focuses the school’s administration and faculty on their common goals with the student as the school’s focus.

The purpose of the school climate assessment is to focus attention on relevant characteristics of school and classroom climate to help students develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions required to be active and engaged citizens.

[Background information on the School Citizenship Climate Assessment.](#)
[School Citizenship Climate Assessment](#)

