



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REPORT CARD OPINION SURVEYS

## General Topics

**Q:** By law, do we have to administer opinion surveys this year?

**A:** There are two laws related to the opinion surveys:

59-18-900(D) – The report card should include information in such area as programs and curriculum, school leadership, community and parent support, faculty qualifications, **evaluations of the school by parents, teachers, and students.**

59-28-190 – Education Oversight Committee survey, public awareness campaign

The Education Oversight Committee shall **survey parents** to determine if state and local efforts are effective in increasing parental involvement. This information shall be used in the public awareness campaign required by the Education Accountability Act to promote the importance of parental involvement.

**Q:** How are surveys accessed?

**A:** Student and Teacher Surveys are located under “Hot Topics” on the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) website. <https://ed.sc.gov/> The link to the Parent Opinion Survey was provided to district Accountability Coordinators.

**Q:** Do the stand-alone career & technical education centers need to administer opinion surveys?

**A:** Career centers will not receive report cards in 2021. Therefore, opinion surveys results are not required to be reported, but centers may participate if they wish.

**Q:** I have a school with only one grade. Do I survey all the students?

**A:** Yes, if the one grade is above the second grade.

**Q:** Is there a minimum response threshold to which we must adhere? What happens if the participation rate is lower than it should be?

**A:** There is no minimum threshold. Only students in the highest grade in elementary and middle schools and 11<sup>th</sup> grade in high schools need to complete the survey. The number of student, parent, and teacher surveys completed will be reported on the report cards.

**Q:** Per the instruction booklet for the survey, it states “For students taking the survey at school, teachers should not read the survey items to the students, but they may answer student questions about the survey items;” however, for students who have limited English proficiency, can the survey be read to them; or for students who have oral administration as an accommodation listed in their IEP, can it be read aloud to them?

**A:** Provide students with the same accommodations used for ELA/Reading standardized testing.

**Q:** On the dashboard where we check to see how many surveys have been completed, there are student, parent, and teacher counts. Will those be used to calculate a participation rate?

**A:** Those numbers are **estimates** of how many surveys could possibly be completed for your school. The report card will display only the number of surveys completed.

## **Accessing the Dashboard**

**Q:** How can I gain access to viewing the number of completed surveys for our school?

**A:** Dashboards displaying how many surveys have been completed are available through the Member Center which is accessible from the SC Department of Education website. Detailed instructions for accessing the survey dashboard can be found at the end of this document.

**Q:** I want to see the count of surveys completed for all the schools in the district, which role should the district Web Access Coordinator (WAC) assign to me?

**A:** School Survey District Superintendent.

## **Parent Surveys**

**Q:** I have divorced parents who each want to complete a Parent Opinion Survey, is that allowable?

**A:** Ideally, only one parent survey is completed per student. You might suggest that parents work together to complete the opinion survey and the demographic information would be reported for the custodial parent. There will be some cases where both parents will want to respond and there is no way to prevent that from happening once the link is provided to parents.

**Q:** I have a parent wanting to provide information about their student’s experience this year beyond the questions on the survey, what do I do?

**A:** You may provide the parent with the [opinionsurveys@ed.sc.gov](mailto:opinionsurveys@ed.sc.gov) email address where they can provide the information or express concerns about the survey.

**Q:** Should parents of 3K or 4K students be offered the opportunity to participate in the opinion survey process?

**A:** There is no need to survey 3K or 4K parents, but if a parent of a 3K or 4K student is interested in completing the survey, they may.

**Q:** Should parents of virtual students complete a Parent Opinion Survey? Those parents and their children have literally never set foot in the school. Since the survey is anonymous, we have no way of identifying parents of students attending virtually.

**A:** Per the Education Oversight Committee (EOC), all parents should be afforded the opportunity to complete a Parent Opinion Survey. If a question is not applicable, the parent may skip that question.

## **Virtual Students and Teachers**

**Q:** Some students are attending school virtually. If virtual students are in the grade being surveyed, do we include those students?

**A:** Yes, although some questions may relate to in-person situations, virtual students should be afforded the opportunity to complete an opinion survey. If a question is not applicable, the student may skip that question.

**Q:** Are virtual students supposed to be answering questions about their home school even though some of them have never set foot on the home school's campus.

**A:** Yes, if a virtual student is enrolled in a school, that student should complete an opinion survey for that school. The survey allows for skipping over questions that the student does not think applies to their experience.

**Q:** If virtual school students are supposed to participate, how is the script to be administered to them (i.e., can the script be modified and presented via email along with the link or is it expected that someone administer the instructions verbally via webex/zoom/etc.)?

**A:** The script may be modified to fit into the usual communication methodology with which the students are familiar.

**Q:** Our district employs virtual teachers, many of whom are content/subject/grade level based and not directly linked to a brick-and-mortar school. Should they take the opinion survey?

**A:** For virtual teachers please follow the same procedures used for part-time teachers. As stated in the instruction booklet. "Part-time teachers may complete a survey form if they are on campus at least half of each school day or week."

The Teacher Opinion Survey offers a response of Not Applicable on all questions.

## SCDE Member Center and Application Web Portal Access

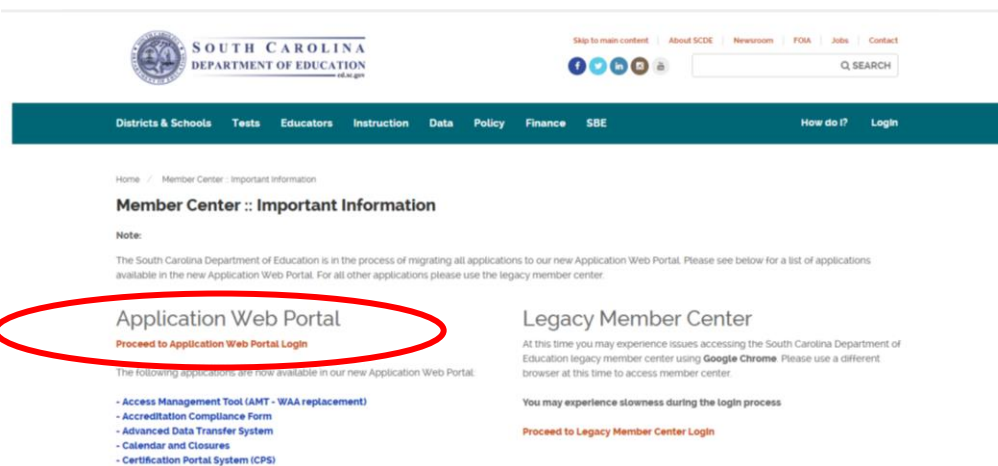
Your district Web Access Coordinator (WAC) will set up an account for you on the SCDE Member Center and will grant you access to a specific role that will allow you to see your school or district response numbers.

Once your account is set up, follow the following steps to access the Opinion Surveys dashboards.

-Click “Logon” from the SC Department of Education website. <https://ed.sc.gov/>



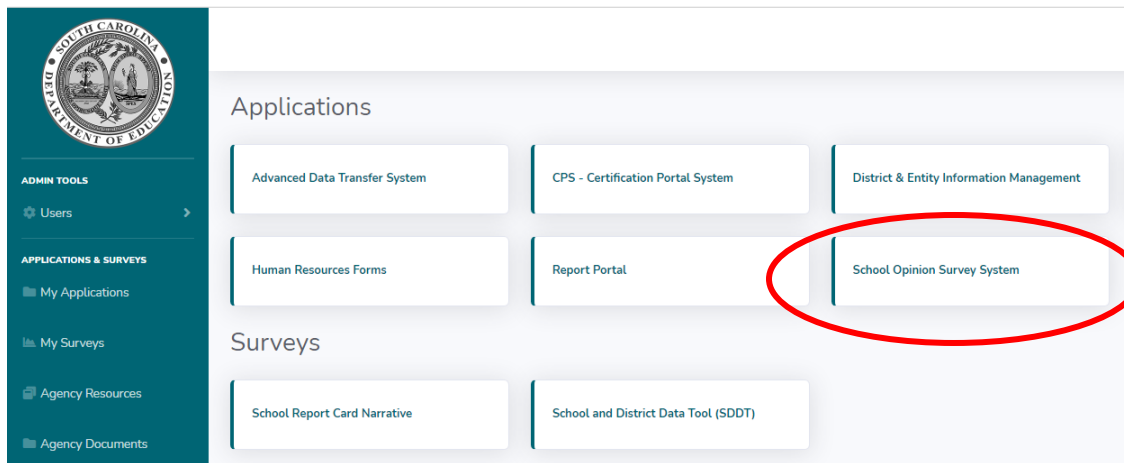
-Choose Application Web Portal to enter.



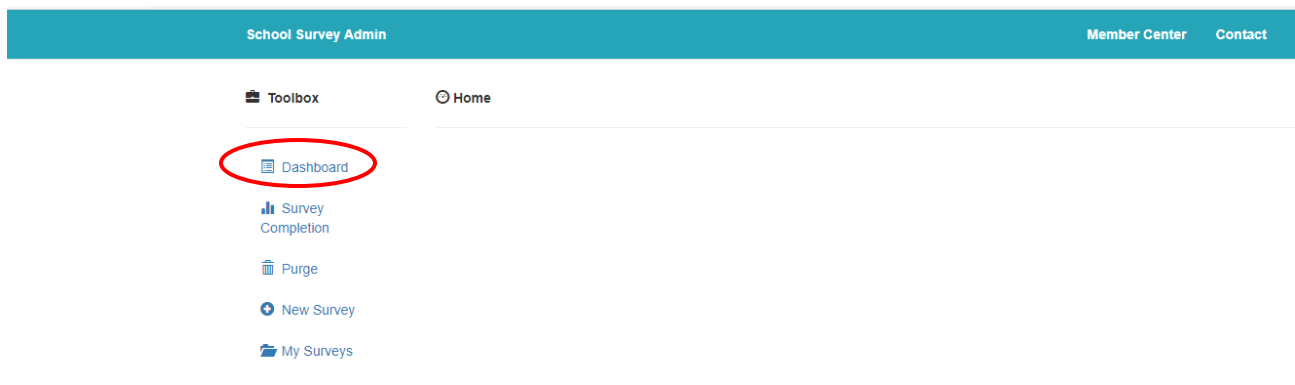
**-Enter your username and password.**



**-Click the School Opinion Survey System button. Your screen will look different from this screen depending on the applications to which you have access.**



**-Click on Dashboards.**



**-Once in the dashboards, click on the opinion survey you want to review. You will have access only to information as set by your district WAC. If you wish to create an Excel file with the district or school counts of surveys submitted, click on the arrow icon.**

**State Status** 2020-2021 South Carolina Parent Opinion Survey

Survey Name	Completed	Expected
South Carolina Parent Opinion Survey 2020-21	6,378	745,817

**District Status** -- All Districts --

District Name	Completed	Expected
Abbeville County School District	0	2,826
Aiken County Public Schools	1	21,052
Allendale County Schools	0	1,003
Anderson 1 & 2 Career and Technology Center	121	0
Anderson County School District 4	0	2,676
Anderson Institute of Technology	0	0

**School Status** -- All Districts --