

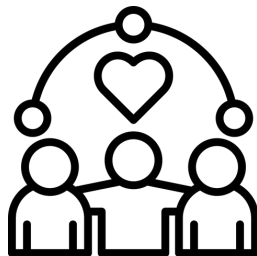
School Belonging Snapshot

A Reflection Tool for Educators and School Leaders

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Purpose

This tool is intended to help educators, administrators, and leadership teams reflect on how well their current school structures support authentic belonging for all students.

This snapshot is not an evaluation of individual teachers or programs. It is a starting point for conversation about how daily routines, schedules, and expectations shape student relationships across a campus.

Many schools have made significant progress in providing access and inclusion for students with disabilities and diverse learning needs. However, students can still experience isolation even when they share the same classrooms, hallways, and activities.

Belonging does not happen automatically.

It is built through intentional design.

This reflection tool can help schools consider whether their current structures support meaningful peer relationships, shared responsibility, and authentic inclusion as part of the daily rhythm of school life.

Use this snapshot individually or with a leadership team, department, or staff group.



School Belonging Snapshot



1. Students with and without disabilities regularly share meaningful activities beyond required classroom placement.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

2. Most students can identify at least one peer relationship that feels mutual.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

3. Adults intentionally design opportunities for general education and students with moderate to severe disabilities to interact during unstructured times such as lunch, transitions, clubs, or campus events.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

4. Students with moderate to severe disabilities are given roles that allow them to contribute in meaningful ways to shared work, projects, or activities outside of their classrooms.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

5. The current structure of the school is intentionally designed to promote meaningful interaction between students with disabilities and their general education peers.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Scoring Instructions

Add your ratings from all five questions.

Minimum Score: 5

Maximum Score: 20

Total Score: _____ / 20

This snapshot is designed to prompt reflection, not to assign a grade. Strong school culture develops over time through intentional design and consistent structures.

Analysis of School Culture

5-8

Emerging Awareness

Belonging may exist in isolated moments or specific classrooms, but it is not yet embedded in the daily structure of the school. Students may share space without consistently sharing relationships. Growth at this stage often begins by identifying small structural adjustments that increase peer interaction and shared responsibility.

9-14

Developing Structure

Your school demonstrates signs of intentional inclusion. However, opportunities for meaningful interaction may still depend on individual educators, specific programs, or isolated initiatives rather than consistent systems across the campus. Strengthening shared routines and leadership ownership can help move belonging from occasional to expected.

15–20

Intentional Design

Your school shows strong foundations for belonging. Students are likely experiencing regular opportunities to build relationships, contribute meaningfully, and feel valued within the broader school culture. Continued refinement and consistent leadership attention can sustain and deepen this work.

Your Score

If your scores do not fall into the intentional design category, do not be alarmed. Most schools do not begin their journey in this designation. Belonging does not happen accidentally. It is built through structure.

Consider:

- Where does your campus naturally support peer connection?
- Where does separation still occur despite shared placement?
- What small design shifts could strengthen integration?
- Who could help lead this work?

If this snapshot raised important questions about your school's culture, the next step is gathering more detailed baseline data.

A comprehensive Pre- and Post-Belonging Assessment Tool is available on our website: SELbyDesign.org

- Measure student experience across grade levels
- Evaluate the impact of peer mentorship programs
- Support district reporting and strategic planning
- Strengthen inclusive culture through data-informed design

You have just taken the first steps to move your site closer to a more connected culture
SELbyDesign.org