

Here's a sample message from a fictional high school school principal:

Dear North Bay High School students,

We can only make our school a better place with your help. I am grateful that this year over **86%** of you completed the YouthTruth survey, and I hope that we hear from even more of you next year. While we still have work to do, I want to thank you for your feedback and share some of what I learned from you through our YouthTruth reports.

I learned that we should continue our work on inclusion as only **56%** of you agree with the statement "I can usually be myself at this school."

While there is still room for improvement, I am proud that **78%** of students agree that North Bay teachers don't let students give up when the work gets hard. I was surprised, though, that only a little more than half of you (**58%**) agree that in most of your classes you are learning to correct your mistakes.

I am also grateful for your open-ended comments on the YouthTruth survey. Here are just two that I'm still thinking about:

"School helps us to start our college apps and to apply for FAFSA but you don't tell us anything after that. How do you accept admission? Find housing? Find the best classes? What does living in college look like?"

"We can't always put school first. Sometimes we really just need a break. Instead of getting mad at the work we didn't do, ask us why we didn't do it. Ask us if we're doing okay. Ask us if there is anything you can help with."

To follow up on our YouthTruth surveys I am working with the Student Voice Committee to select specific data points from our YouthTruth reports to discuss during advisory meetings. I am confident that if we all listen and learn from each others' experiences, together we can make our school an even better, kinder, and more interesting place to be.

Thank you. I heard you. I appreciate your feedback!

Principal Lopez