



Understanding Your Tripod Survey Results: School Report

Introduction

The Tripod™ student survey collects, organizes, and reports on student perspectives at the classroom level to support and improve teaching and learning. Research shows that Tripod's 7Cs™ teaching practices help predict both student engagement and achievement.

This report is a snapshot of student perspectives at one point in time. Along with other measures of teaching and learning, Tripod results help create a more complete picture of classroom learning conditions in your school. Your teachers' survey results can help inform school-wide conversations as well as individual goal-setting, self-reflection, and other aspects of professional development.

As you reflect upon this student feedback, look for patterns in the data to identify both strengths and areas for growth. The information in this report can inspire and help you and your teachers to reach students in new ways.

Reading Your Survey Results

Tripod survey results center on the 7Cs of effective teaching—Care, Confer, Captivate, Clarify, Consolidate, Challenge, and Control—and also measure peer support. More details about these constructs appear in the appendix of this document.

The data in the report are presented in two main ways:

1. Scaled scores identify areas of strength and opportunities for growth by allowing you to compare scores in your school to the scores of other schools in your comparison cohort. Scaled scores also allow you to compare the scores of teachers in your school. Scaled scores for the Tripod 7Cs combine responses from all of the students in a class across all of the Tripod 7Cs survey items. Classroom scores are averaged by teacher and school and weighted class size to produce teacher- and school-level scores. Scores range from 202 to 398. A score of 300 represents the midpoint for all teachers in your comparison cohort. See the shaded box below for more details about scaled scores and your comparison cohort.
2. Item Response Details provide a closer look at the range of students' responses for each survey item.

Scaled Scores

To compute scaled scores, all student responses are aggregated to calculate a raw score, which is then converted to a scaled score with a range of 202 to 398. A score of 300 represents the midpoint of all scores. The middle part of the scale—approximately 270-330—is where the majority of classrooms score. A teacher in this range knows that s/he has a score similar to that of most other teachers. Scaled scores provide the unique benefit of results that have the same meaning across different settings (e.g., Elementary vs. High School) and across different components (e.g., Care vs. Challenge).

Comparison Cohort

The comparison cohort for your school is the group against which your scores are being compared. Typically, your comparison cohort will be one of three groups: 1) schools surveyed by Tripod from 2011-2014 where the average classroom composition/characteristics are similar to your own, 2) all schools surveyed by Tripod from 2011-2014, or 3) all schools in your district/state who administered Tripod surveys when you did. You can find your comparison cohort on page two of your school report.

The comparison cohort for your teachers is similar to the school's comparison cohort. Typically, a teacher's comparison cohort will be one of three groups: 1) teachers working in similar classrooms surveyed by Tripod from 2011-2014, 2) all teachers surveyed by Tripod from 2011-2014, or 3) all teachers in your district/state who administered Tripod surveys when you did. A teacher can find his/her comparison cohort on page three of his/her teacher report.

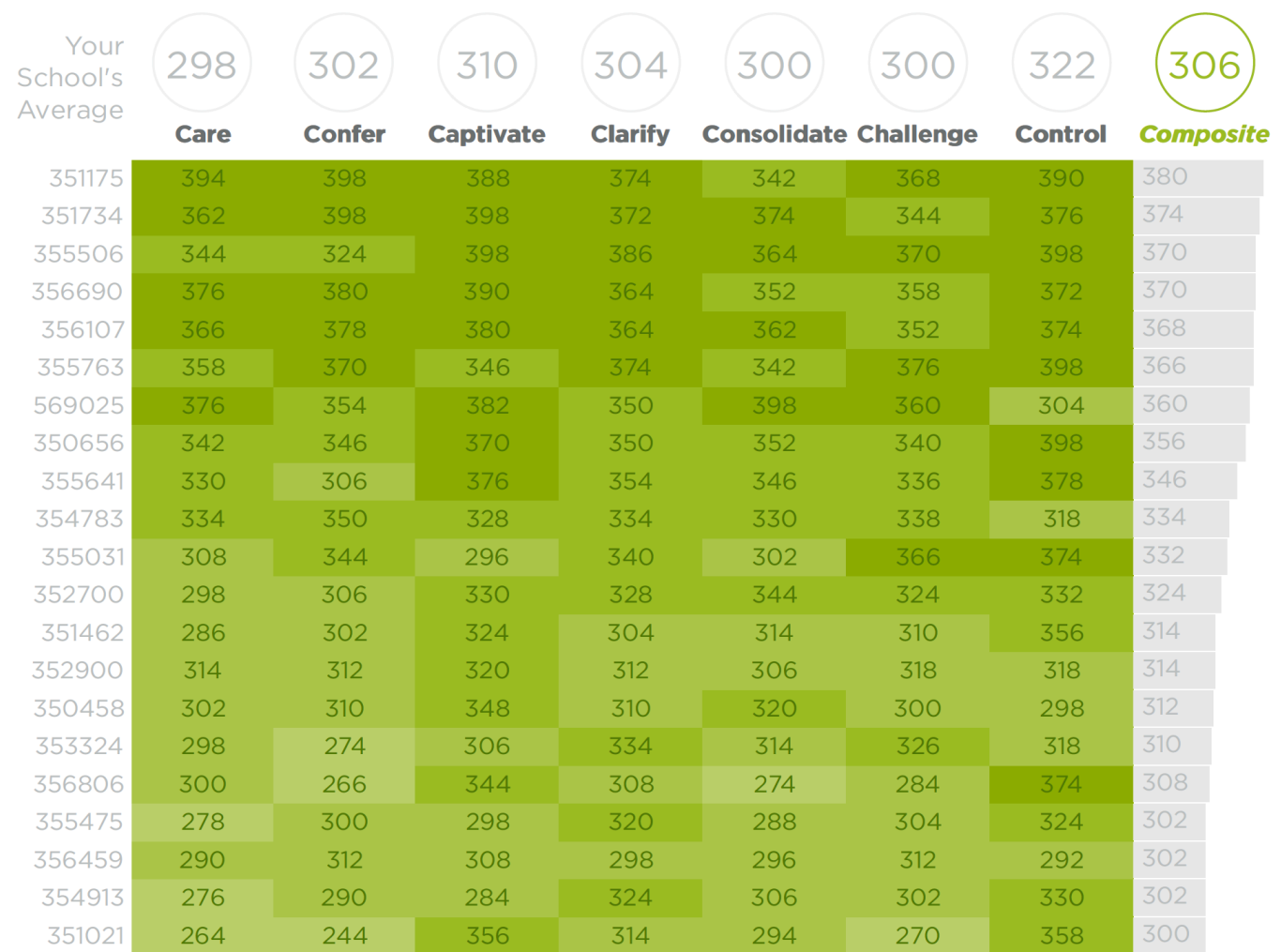
The pages that follow describe in greater detail how information is displayed in the report.

School Summary

The School Summary shows the full range of your teachers' results on each of the 7Cs. As shown in **Figure 1**, the shade of green indicates lower (light green) to higher (darker green) scaled scores. Note that the chart is organized from highest to lowest based on teachers' composite scores. Above each of the 7Cs is the average scaled score for your school.

These numbers are key to understanding areas of success and challenge across your school. Whereas the average scaled score for your school tells you where your school scored in relation to other schools in your comparison cohort, the scores for each teacher tell you where that teacher scores in relation to other teachers in the same comparison cohort.

Figure 1: School Summary Example



Item Response Detail

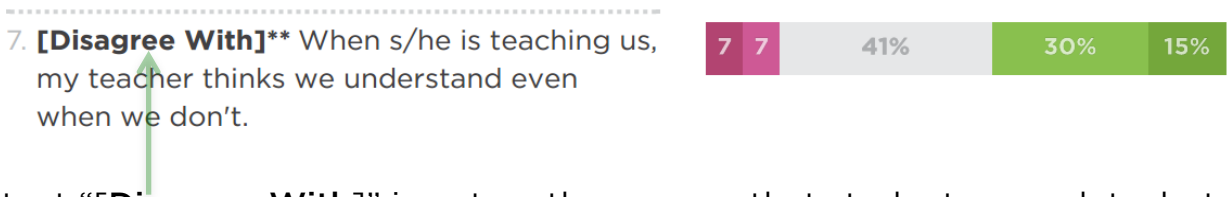
For each item on the survey, students mark one of five response options. In the Item Response Detail section of your report, bar charts are used to display the percentage of students in your school who selected each response option. As shown in **Figure 2**, green bars represent the percentages of favorable responses, while purple bars indicate unfavorable responses.

Figure 2: Five Levels for Upper Elementary and Secondary



For some statements on the survey, disagreement is the desired response. **Figure 3** shows an example. Students are presented with this statement: “When s/he is teaching us, my teacher thinks we understand even when we don’t.” Because this item is worded negatively, disagreement is the favorable response.

Figure 3: Example of Negatively Worded Item



The text “[Disagree With]” is not on the surveys that students complete, but it is added to the report to remind readers of the report that disagreement is the desired response. More green indicates that more students disagreed with the statement. Whether the survey item is worded positively or negatively, more green is always better.

Other Tripod Measures

The final section of the report presents survey results related to peer support. While these data are not used to measure teaching practice, they can provide you with further insight into your students’ experiences. Again, more details about this construct appear in the appendix of this document (on the next page).

Appendix: The Tripod Framework

The Tripod Project uses surveys to understand student perspectives on teaching practices, classroom learning conditions, and student engagement. Students complete Tripod™ surveys at the classroom level to report on key dimensions of their experiences in each class. Survey results support strategic planning and goal-setting by teachers, schools, and school systems. Survey items, analysis, and reporting are organized around the Tripod framework.

The Tripod framework draws upon theoretical and empirical work in education, psychology, and the study of organizations. At its core are the 7Cs™ of effective teaching, a set of best practices that recent research links to student engagement (effort and behavior) and achievement (gains on standardized tests). The 7Cs are detailed below along with an additional component of the Tripod framework. The Tripod Project has analyzed data from millions of students to validate the logic of its conceptual model.

Tripod's 7Cs of Effective Teaching

The 7Cs framework organizes the central constructs in Tripod's measures of effective teaching. Each construct is derived from peer-reviewed research published in education books and journals over the past several decades.

1. **Care:** Show concern and commitment
2. **Confer:** Invite ideas and promote discussion
3. **Captivate:** Inspire curiosity and interest
4. **Clarify:** Cultivate understanding and overcome confusion
5. **Consolidate:** Integrate ideas and check for understanding
6. **Challenge:** Press for rigor and persistence
7. **Control:** Sustain order, respect, and focus

Sample survey items: 7Cs

- I like the ways we learn in this class. (*Captivate*)
- If you don't understand something, my teacher explains it another way. (*Clarify*)
- Our class stays busy and does not waste time. (*Control*)

Tripod Peer Support**

Peer support means the degree to which students support one another instead of teasing or trying to discourage their classmates. Levels of peer support help determine whether students feel safe asking questions and seeking help from teachers. Because negative peer interactions such as teasing tend to be purposefully hidden from educators, student surveys can provide unique insight into issues of peer support in school.

Sample survey items: Peer Support

- In this class, students get teased for making mistakes.*
- In this class, some students try to keep others from working hard.*

*Disagreement with the statement is the desirable response for this type of survey item.



** While peer support is not used as a measure of teaching practice, it can provide further insight about classroom learning conditions and student experiences.