

# STUDENT WALK: SEEING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH A STUDENT LENS

As you are considering your school environment, you may want to start by thinking through the everyday experience of your students. This perspective can help to shape your support for the fuller school community. Here is a process to consider your school culture through your students' eyes.

Choose at least two students who represent different parts of the school community. Walk through their day in your mind. Think about what experiences and interactions each student will have during their daily schedule. Don't skip over anything that may feel non-consequential, such as a passing period or dismissal. *[Bonus: Spend at least part of the day shadowing that student to observe what they see and experience in reality.]*

As you walk through the day, reflect on the values that are being modeled – both what you would view as positive and what you may not want to see. How does the overall environment reflect what you have set as a school goal or mission? How do the relationships and values being modeled for each of these students compare to the relationships and values you would like to see reflected in your students?

At the end of your walk, whether mentally or in-person, ask yourself the following questions:

- What did you learn?
- How many of your students are seeing positive models of the school environment and culture throughout their day?
- What relationships and values are being modeled in your school?
- What steps will you take as a leader to strengthen or reinforce the characteristics you want to see?

Students have a lot to teach us. If we want to create a positive environment that is inclusive of every member of the community, we can start by taking a pulse check on how our students experience their school. What you learn through doing this student walk may shape how you utilize the resources throughout this guide.