

Randolph College EPP Pupil Surveys for Student Teachers (2021-2022)

As was true in the past, there are three versions of the pupil surveys: grades K-2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-12 with a Likert three-point scale that is developmentally appropriate for each age group. Tables 1, 2, and 3 show that the mean scores for all survey items were above the target of 2.0. Like previous years, we asked clinical instructors to administer the survey for their respective student teachers during the last week of student teaching. Encouragingly, we had much greater response rates for surveys than the last two years (which were affected dramatically by COVID). However, because we had only one candidate placed in grades 3-5 and received only three completed surveys from that class, we combined the 2020-2021 data in grades 3-5 with the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 data to achieve a minimum acceptable sample size for our reliability analysis (resulting in $n = 71$).

In grades For the **K-2 survey** (Table 1), the highest mean score (2.742) was reported for item 3 (“my teacher shows me how to do new things,” SD .477). The lowest reported mean was 2.385 on item 1 (“My teacher listens to me”) (SD .604). We will monitor this item in the coming year. For the grades **3-5 survey** (Table 2), the highest mean score (2.9) was again recorded for item 8 (“My teacher shows respect to all students”) (SD .316), as was the case for the last four years. Item 3 (“I am able to do the work in class,” SD .316) was just as high. The lowest reported mean was 2.3 for item 6 (“My teacher explains how my learning can be used outside of school”) (SD .675). For the grades **6-12 survey** (Table 3) the highest mean was for item 12 (“shows respect to all students”) (2.713, SD .490). The lowest reported mean was for item 3 (“is available for help outside of class time”) (2.268, SD .644).

When we developed the instrument, content validity (that is, whether or not the instrument actually measures what we set out to measure) was reviewed by department faculty with expertise in child development and curriculum and instruction. To test instrument reliability (internal consistency), each set of survey data was analyzed using SPSS (Version 28) Cronbach’s Alpha statistics. This analysis helped us gauge whether all items on the evaluation were working well together and whether some items were redundant. The K-2 survey had seven items ($\alpha = .823$), the 3-5 survey had eight items ($\alpha = .552$), and the 6-12 survey had 17 items ($\alpha = .931$). Further examination of the item total statistics revealed that items 4 and 6 on the K-2 survey resulted in a higher α if deleted (.837 and .830, respectively), although this difference was small. Encouragingly, with a larger sample size, the K-2 survey’s reliability was in the acceptable range, unlike the previous two years (during which COVID both reduced the return rate and, we suspect, skewed our results). The 3-5 survey’s α was lower than that of previous years, but as we note earlier, this year’s sample was very small. The statistic produced reflects 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 years—again, years skewed by COVID. As was true last year, item 5 showed a somewhat higher α if deleted (.586). The 6-12 survey, as has been true in the past, showed high reliability. No items would result in higher α if deleted.

Table 1. Pupil surveys (K-2) for student teachers during 2021-2022
 Target mean score is 2.0.

Survey Item 1=frowning 2=neutral 3=smiling	N	Mean	SD
1. My teacher listens to me.	65	2.385	.604
2. My teacher gives me help when I need it.	65	2.708	.522
3. My teacher shows me how to do new things.	65	2.742	.477
4. I know what I am supposed to do in class.	65	2.646	.482
5. I am able to do the work in class.	65	2.6	.581
6. I learn new things in my class.	65	2.738	.443
7. I feel safe in my classroom.	65	2.6	.680

Table 2. Pupil surveys (grades 3-5) for student teachers during 2021-2022
 Target mean score is 2.0.

Survey Items 1=no 2=sometime 3=yes	N	Mean	SD
1. My teacher listens to me.	11	2.8	.422
2. My teacher gives me help when I need it.	11	2.8	.422
3. I am able to do the work in class.	11	2.9	.316
4. I feel safe in this class.	11	2.8	.422
5. My teacher uses many ways to teach.	11	2.7	.483
6. My teacher explains how my learning can be used outside school.	11	2.3	.675
7. My teacher explains when I get things wrong on my work.	11	2.6	.699
8. My teacher shows respect to all students.	11	2.9	.316

Table 3. Pupil surveys (grades 6-12) for student teachers during 2021-2022
Target mean score is 2.0.

Survey Items 1= disagree 2 =undecided 3=agree <i>In this class, my teacher...</i>	N	Mean	SD
1. gives clear instructions.	574	2.489	.549
2. treats everyone fairly.	574	2.711	.511
3. is available for help outside of class time.	574	2.268	.644
4. clearly states the objectives for the lesson.	574	2.576	.569
5. grades my work in a reasonable time.	574	2.402	.622
6. relates the lesson to other subjects or the real world.	574	2.514	.607
7. allows for and respects different opinions.	574	2.676	.509
8. encourages all students to learn.	574	2.694	.494
9. uses a variety of activities.	574	2.427	.665
10. communicates in a way I can understand.	574	2.485	.603
11. manages the classroom with a minimum of disruptions.	574	2.355	.612
12. shows respect to all students.	574	2.713	.490
13. makes sure class time is used for learning	574	2.592	.527
14. clearly defines long-term assignments (such as projects).	574	2.473	.583
15. sets high expectations.	574	2.421	.575
16. helps me reach the high expectations she/he sets.	574	2.460	.619
17. communicates honestly with me.	574	2.662	.498