

Trauma Responsive Understanding Self-Assessment Tool for Schools (TRUST-S)

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Traumatic events may affect students and their families, teachers, administrators, school-based mental health service providers, and other school personnel. When experiencing acute or chronic trauma, some students might withdraw from their usual activities, while other students may start exhibiting disruptive behaviors in the classroom. Student success can be impacted across all metrics: academics, behavior, attendance and health. Adopting trauma-sensitive educational practices promotes achievement and wellbeing. Implementing these approaches systemically can be daunting.

One way to address your school's trauma-responsiveness is using comprehensive assessment measures to identify trauma-informed strengths, emerging strengths, and areas for growth. The [Trauma Responsive Understanding Self-Assessment Tool for Schools \(TRUST-S\)](#) was developed by Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI). This survey is an adaptation of the original TRUST that was created by CCSI in partnership with The Institute of Trauma and Trauma Informed Care at The University of Buffalo. The TRUST-S was enhanced to reflect school-culture specific language in the questions, reporting and related resources.

Like its organizational counterpart, the **TRUST-S** is aligned with [SAMHSA'S Ten Implementation Domains](#) to guide participants through a series of questions regarding current trauma-informed educational practices. The **TRUST-S** is an assessment that schools and districts can use to evaluate their progress in working towards being more trauma-sensitive and informed. The **TRUST-S** is a self-assessment tool, grounded in highlighting the strengths of the school across these areas: government & leadership, policy, physical environment, engagement & involvement, screening, assessment & treatment, cross sector collaboration, training & workforce development, progress monitoring & quality assurance, financing and evaluation. Assessing these multiple domains allows for a holistic view of your school or district's current trauma-sensitive practices while also providing specific, targeted feedback for each domain to promote growth and further guide implementation efforts.

The **TRUST-S** is unique in that it is used to evaluate the progress of organizations, not the progress of individual people. After using the **TRUST-S** for self-assessment, schools can examine their data results for trends and insights by specific roles such as staff and administrators. This tool is able to disaggregate data by school level (i.e. whole school, district) as well as within different school departments and buildings. The final report provides schools with recommendations that they can use to strengthen their trauma-sensitive practices.

From a practical standpoint, the **TRUST-S** can be implemented with schools of all sizes and can also be administered more than once. The brief survey takes between 12 and 15 minutes to complete online or via mobile device. Additionally, there is no limit to how many participants can complete the survey at each school or school district. All staff are encouraged to anonymously input their feedback to guide positive change for their school or district's climate, culture and success!

TRUST-S Snapshot

What does the *TRUST-S* survey offer schools? A free, comprehensive, strengths-based method to assess school-wide trauma-informed practice implementation.

Who can complete the *TRUST-S* survey? Teachers, counselors, administrators, and ALL school personnel can complete the measure. The measure can be completed at the school or district level. The measure is most complete when all staff, in all roles, participate.

How much does the *TRUST-S* survey cost? The *TRUST-S* is free to all NYS schools.

How often should the *TRUST-S* survey be administered? The survey can be administered multiple times each year to continuously evaluate your school's progress across trauma-responsive domains. Recommended use is an initial baseline followed by annual point in time progress monitoring.

Where can I sign my school up for the *TRUST-S* survey? <https://trust-survey.com/Landing>

Who can I contact if I have questions about the *TRUST-S* survey?

Please send any questions to askccsi@csi.org

Learn more:

<https://www.ccsi.org/articles/trauma-responsive-understanding-self-assessment-tool-for-schools-trust-s/>

<https://www.traumainformedny.org/Home>

<https://trust-survey.com/Learn-About-TRUST-and-TRUST-S>

Overall Results

The following tables represent how your organization scored on the assessment based on the 10 domains of the assessment and is reported accordingly. There are two tables: one depicting leadership and the other frontline and support staff. The mean score is on a scale of one (1) to five (5) and is calculated by summing the total number of responses for each item and domain then dividing by the total number of responses.

Legend		
Low		0.00 - 3.50
Medium		3.51 - 4.00
High		4.01 - 5.00

Domain	Frontline & Support Staff		Leadership		Total	
	Mean Score	Ranking	Mean Score	Ranking	Mean Score	Ranking
Governance & Leadership	1.79		2.00		1.90	
Policy	4.33		4.01		4.17	
Physical Environment	3.75		3.99		3.87	
Engagement & Involvement	4.25		4.02		4.14	
Screening, Assessment & Treatment	4.77		4.80		4.79	
Cross Sector Collaboration	1.38		2.00		1.69	
Training & Workforce Development	0.87		3.01		1.94	
Progress Monitoring & Quality Assurance	1.50		3.25		2.38	
Financing	3.88		4.00		3.94	
Evaluation	4.93		4.50		4.72	