



ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

Student Educational Equity Development (SEED) Survey

Guidance for Using SEED Survey Data

This document describes how to use data and results from the SEED and Alt-SEED Surveys to explore questions about students' experiences in their schools.

Recommended Steps

1. **Become familiar with the SEED survey domains and items**
2. **Become familiar with the SEED data files**
3. **Identify a question to develop a data exploration plan**
4. **Prepare data files and explore the data**

Step One: Become familiar with the SEED survey domains and items

Before doing anything with the SEED Survey data files, spend time getting familiar with the SEED survey domains, areas, and corresponding items at different grade levels. The data files are complex, and they would be difficult to navigate otherwise.

The SEED survey covers eight domains (Access to Learning Resources, Sense of Belonging, Opportunity to Learn, Self-Efficacy, Well Rounded Education, Career Connected Learning, Post-Graduation Planning, and Extracurricular Engagement). Certain domains are broken down into smaller and more specific areas. The [SEED Survey webpage](#) on the Oregon Department of Education's website offers many resources for data exploration and practical application to improve educational equity at the systems level. One resource that is useful for becoming familiar with the SEED Survey is [Domains and Sample Items](#). This document gives an overview of the domains in the SEED and Alt-SEED Surveys. It provides domain definitions, sample items, and it maps which domains are covered at which grades. In addition to this resource, a full list of items for each grade can be found on the SEED webpage.

Step Two: Become familiar with the SEED data files

SEED Survey data files are shared in multiple formats and aggregations. Review the data file(s) and familiarize yourself with the layout(s).

Publicly available data files are posted on the [SEED Survey webpage](#) in the following formats:

- **State-level survey response summary data files.** Data files provide the counts and percents of students' responses, by item and grade.
- **State-level domain score files.** Data files provide domain scores that are parsed by student group and grade.

- **ESD Boundary-level survey response summary data files.** Data files provide the counts and percents of students' responses, by item and grade.
- **ESD Boundary-level domain score files.** Data files provide domain scores that are parsed by student group and grade.
- **District-level domain score data files.** Data files provide domain scores that are parsed district, student group, and grade.

Privately available data are shared with districts via the Achievement Data Insight (ADI). Access to this data is granted at the discretion of the [District Security Administrator](#) (DSA). School and district personnel who wish to access their district's private data should contact their DSA. Data are available in the following format:

- **District-level survey response summary data files.** Data files provide the counts and percents of students' responses, by item and grade. Data can be viewed directly in the ADI or downloaded as an Excel file.

Note. ODE recommends utilizing the [SEED Survey Item Comparison by Grade](#) document when reviewing the privately shared district-level data to guide how the file is explored.

Suppression

To protect student privacy and confidentiality, certain data cells might be suppressed if they do not meet sample size requirements. Suppression notations include an estimate of the cell value (e.g., $\leq 1\%$), an asterisk (*), and / or the label 'DS' (i.e., 'dually suppressed').

Step Three: Identify a question to develop a data exploration plan

After getting a sense of the SEED survey domains and items, as well as the different types of data files, you should then design a focused plan for how you would like to explore your districts' data. This part of the process involves a series of decisions:

- Is there a question in our district that data from the SEED Survey can clarify?
- How shall the question (or questions) be framed?
- Which SEED Survey data file (or files) are relevant for the question under exploration?
- What filters should we deploy to reduce the data set down to a manageable size?
- Are we filtering by grade? By domain? By item within a domain? By student group?
- Are we seeking to compare two sets of data, such as comparing the perceptions of 5th graders and 6th graders around their access to learning resources?
- Are we exploring trends across grades, such as how students at different grade levels experience a sense of belonging in their schools?

Step Four: Prepare data files and explore the data

After identifying the topic or question to be explored using SEED Survey data and developing a data exploration plan, you are well-positioned to work with the data file(s) with efficiency and utility. You will need to filter your data to narrow down the information you are interested in looking at. This step begins with preparing the data files through downloading the file(s) you decided on in the previous step, filtering for the content most relevant to your inquiry, and customizing the layout of the data file(s) for ease of use.

Suggestions and Resources

Connect SEED data files with other sources. Used with other data sources (e.g., graduation rates, summative test results, discipline data) SEED can enable educators and leaders to tell a more complete story about how their systems are impacting students. In addition, ODE also publishes [research briefs](#) that highlight SEED data while incorporating other data sources. Find these briefs under the “SEED Survey Results and Specifications” section on the [SEED Survey webpage](#).

Discover areas to increase equitable opportunities. The domain score files allow SEED Survey data users to analyze students’ perceptions by student groups to identify whether certain groups are experiencing the education systems differently.

Involve teachers, students, families, community members, as well as union and community-based organization representatives in developing your data exploration plan. Invite individuals from these groups to discuss which domains they are most interested in learning more about from the students’ perspective.

Utilize ODE resources to address system-level areas of concern that are identified via the SEED survey. For example, this [ODE webpage](#) provides resources and information to promote mental health and well-being for educators, students, and families. ODE offers resources for instructional support and information about Oregon’s learning standards on the [Standards and Instruction webpage](#).