

GALLUP STUDENT POLL AUSTRALIA RESULTS

INSIGHTS AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR THE MARCH-APRIL 2017 SURVEY

Students become **less engaged** as they make their way through the school system. This drop is more for Girls than for Boys though Girls have higher levels of engagement compared to boys.

Results from the Australian Gallup Student Poll – measuring students' levels of Hope, Engagement and Well-Being - leading indicators of academic success.

RESULTS

The results of the fifth iteration of the Australian Gallup Student Poll, a convenience sample of 8,864 students in Years 5-12, in 27 schools.

Key highlights include:

Overall, we need to improve the hope, engagement and wellbeing of Australian students. Results indicate that of the students surveyed they are:

- 45% Hopeful, 38% Stuck, 17% Discouraged
 - Hope: Ideas and energy we have for the future
- 55% Engaged, 28% Not Engaged, 17% Actively Disengaged
 - Engagement: Involvement in and enthusiasm for school
- 59% Thriving, 39% Struggling, 2% Suffering
 - Wellbeing: How we think about and experience our lives Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Trends by Year Level

- Student Engagement Decreases over time:
 - 72% of Year 5 students are engaged in school compared with 47% of Year 12 students.

- Girls have higher Engagement than Boys but the drop for them over the years is larger.
 - For Girls, 79% are engaged in Year 5 and this drops to 49% in Year 12
 - For Boys, 63% are engaged in Year 5 and this drops to 44% in Year 12 Less than one-in-three Year 12
- Less than one in three students in Year 12, strongly agree “they will find a good job when they leave school”, compared to half of Year 5 students.
- Only one-in-four Year 12 students strongly agree “they can find lots of ways around any problem.” This is the lowest scoring Hope item for all year groups.
- 27% of Year 12 students strongly agree “their school is committed to building the strengths of each student”, compared with 63% of Year 5 students.

Overall

A focus on strengths prevents a decline in engagement. Specifically, students who strongly agree “their school is committed to building the strengths of each student” are:

- 10 times more likely to be engaged
- 3 times more likely to be hopeful

For those students who strongly agree with this item 87% are engaged in Year 5 and 89% in Year 12

Also, when students strongly agree that they have the “opportunity to do what they do best every day,” they are 22.7 times more likely to be engaged at school.

Untapped potential in Entrepreneurs

Spark entrepreneurial thinking by tapping into students' ambitions. Among the Entrepreneurial items, the following are among the items with the highest scores:

- 38% strongly agree that 'Thinking of new ways to do things is exciting for me'
- 48% strongly agree that their 'Family/friends are very supportive of my ideas and interests'
- 60% strongly agree that 'It is important to me to be the best at what I do'

However, only:

- 18% of students strongly agree with the item 'I am interested in courses or programs on how to start/run a business'

What can we do?

Results from the survey indicate that there is a gap between educators' well-intended efforts and what students are thinking and feeling.

To bridge this gap, educators should monitor and more strongly consider the behavioural aspects of education, focusing more heavily on the uniqueness of individual students along with standardised testing. Standardised testing should not be the only metric considered.

Educators must concentrate on developing students' critical problem-solving skills, on developing their entrepreneurial spirit and on teaching students how to use their individual strengths to succeed. This requires teachers to know and understand students' strengths and what they do best every day; helping them become excited about the future.

Providing appropriate praise or recognition is one way to improve engagement, so long as it is timely, specific, and genuine.

WHAT IS THE GALLUP STUDENT POLL?

The Gallup Student Poll (GSP) is an online census of a school community that reports on the Hope, Engagement, Wellbeing and Entrepreneurial spirit of students. This instrument has been used in the U.S. since 2009 and has now surveyed over 5 million students. From results in the U.S. we know that these factors are of the highest importance in creating stronger academic outcomes improving student retention and helping students develop themselves for the future. The poll was administered for the fifth time in Australia this year.

The GSP survey operated by Gallup via a secure website and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. The 2017 survey was open from March 7 – April 7 and was available for all students in Years 5-12 to participate during school hours from Tuesday – Friday. Results are available to schools and report down to year level only.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY HOPEFUL, ENGAGED AND THRIVING STUDENTS?

Hope

Hopeful: These students possess numerous ideas and abundant energy for the future.

Stuck: These students generate little momentum toward the future.

Discouraged: These students lack ideas and energy for the future.

Engagement

Engaged: These students are highly involved with and enthusiastic about school.

Not Engaged: These students are present but not involved with or enthusiastic about school.

Actively Disengaged: These students undermine the educational process for themselves and others.

Wellbeing

Thriving: These students think about their present and future life in positive terms; they tend to be in good health and have strong social support.

Struggling: These students lack positive thoughts and experiences; they tend to worry about meeting the daily demands of life.

Suffering: These students think about current and future life in negative terms; they tend to have less access to basic needs (e.g., good food and healthcare).

WHY THESE MEASURES?

Gallup Senior Scientists have studied educational best practice for decades, and have identified three factors that have a great impact on our students. These factors are:

- Hope: Ideas and energy we have for the future
- Engagement: Involvement in and enthusiasm for school
- Wellbeing: How we think about and experience our lives

These factors were chosen as:

- They can be reliably measured
- They have a meaningful relationship with or impact on educational outcomes
- They are actionable at the local level – meaning that we can pinpoint actions to take at a school level to improve each factor, and in doing so, improve student and school outcomes
- They are not measured directly by another large-scale survey

ABOUT GALLUP

Gallup has studied human behaviour for more than 70 years, employing many of the world's leading scientists in management, economics, psychology and sociology. Gallup has leveraged this deep understanding of human nature and behaviour to develop research-based measurement tools, development programmes, and strategic advisory services with one single purpose in mind: to help organisations, educational institutions and individuals maximise their performance.

Gallup's 2,000 professionals deliver advisory services and development programmes at client sites, including at schools and Universities, through the Web, at Gallup University campuses, and in more than 40 offices in 20 countries around the world.

For further information please go to the following website:
www.gallupstudentpoll.com.au or:

If you are enquiring about the Australian Student Poll please call: +61 2 9409 9000 or
Email: education_au@gallup.com

If you are enquiring about the New Zealand Student Poll please call: +64 4 499 8700 or
Email: education_nz@gallup.com