

Online Survey Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is my information anonymous if you use my email? Is my information kept confidential or protected? Will my principal or superintendent know my responses?

A: No identifying information will be connected to your responses. The software being used does not keep login information with the responses in the same spreadsheet.

Q: How can I pick between items as most and least important when they are all important?

A: We know this survey may be different than most that you take. All the responses are important, that is how they made the list. They have been gathered from existing research and through experiences of the many educators on the working group. The survey uses Best-Worst Scaling (also called Max Diff), which is a well-developed mathematical survey process that will allow us to determine proportional rankings.

When you are asked most or least important, it is just to essentially order the 4 items listed, knowing that they are all important. Items show up at least 3 times over the 15 questions, not based on your response, rather based on a statistical design, so that once we have thousands of responses we can determine which ones to move forward with first, given today's educator workforce in Alaska and their current needs.

Q: How can this survey give you good answers? It does not look like a valid design at all.

A: Here are a few resources around the statistical relevance, for those so inclined.

<https://sawtoothsoftware.com/resources/technical-papers/how-good-is-best-worst-scaling>

<https://cognitiveresearchjournal.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s41235-019-0183-2>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S016762960600049X>

Q: What will you do with the results of this survey?

A: We would like the weight of the educator workforce to guide the recommendations to policy makers. Results will be used to support practical, professional, and policy recommendations to the Governor, Commissioner, State Board of Education, Legislature, and University.

Q: Why didn't you have a comment section? How can I let you know my additional thoughts?

A: You can send comments to the email at the end of the survey or in the invitation. All comments will be gathered and coded to develop themes that we hope will illuminate priorities identified through the survey. With invitations going out to over 15,000 certificated educators we wanted to ensure that we did not take on more than we could process.

Q: What about early learning? It is an important part of education and seems to be missing in this study.

A: We were tasked to investigate and provide recommendations around teacher retention and recruitment of the Alaska K-12 education system. It doesn't mean that early learning isn't important, it's just outside the scope of this work.