

# Elevating the Voices that Matter Most

## Understanding the 5Essentials & Cultivate Surveys

The 5Essentials and Cultivate are two distinct research-based surveys developed by the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research (UChicago Consortium) and powered by UChicago Impact. Both Surveys provide schools with powerful and meaningful insights to inform improvement efforts and catalyze sustainable change. However, each Survey is unique and offers targeted insight into different aspects of schools. The chart below outlines the distinctions between the 5Essentials and Cultivate.

### 5Essentials

### Cultivate

A student *and* teacher survey that **measures the organizational conditions across the school.**

A student survey that **measures student experiences in their classrooms.**

**What is this survey?**

The 5Essentials measures the five factors that research shows drive sustainable improvement: Ambitious Instruction, Supportive Environment, Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, and Involved Families.

Cultivate provides insights into students' learning environments across nine Learning Conditions that research shows influences students' Learning Mindsets & Strategies and, thus, their academic performance.

**What does the survey do?**

Provides student and teacher feedback on a school's organizational conditions that is designed to support school leadership teams in improvement planning.

Provides student feedback on classroom learning conditions designed to support teacher teams in making shifts in practice that can impact students' academic outcomes, identity development and well-being.

**Who takes the survey and when?**

Surveys students and teachers once a year.

Surveys students twice a year (Fall and Spring).

**Why take the survey?**

Research shows schools strong on at least three of the five essentials were 10 times more likely to show substantial gains in student learning than schools weak on three or more of the five essentials.

Research shows students earn more As and fewer Fs when they have more positive Learning Mindsets & Strategies - and that students' Learning Mindsets & Strategies are influenced by the Learning Conditions students experience in their classrooms.

### How can the surveys be used together to support school improvement?

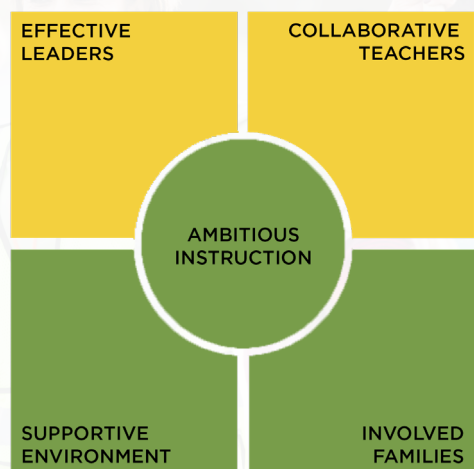
Pairing the 5Essentials and Cultivate provides leaders and teachers with a broad and deep understanding of student experience and the different levers to help improve conditions at the school and classroom levels.

# Powerful, Research-Based Frameworks for Improvement

The 5Essentials and Cultivate Frameworks are grounded in research from the UChicago Consortium that guide schools in prioritizing and strengthening the conditions linked to sustainable improvement.

## The 5Essentials Framework

The 5Essentials Framework outlines the five organizational conditions that matter most for school improvement. These factors range across a school's entire environment, from the administrator's office to classroom instruction to school safety.



## Cultivate Framework

The Cultivate Framework isolates the classroom environment and outlines the link between students' classroom experiences and their academic performance, identity development, and well-being.



## Learn More

To learn more about UChicago Impact and the 5Essentials and Cultivate Surveys, visit [uchicagoimpact.org](http://uchicagoimpact.org) or contact us at [info@uchicago.edu](mailto:info@uchicago.edu).

To learn more about the surveys' development, visit <https://consortium.uchicago.edu/surveys>.