

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June, 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. 54% of the children surveyed in our community report that they experience the asset **Caring school climate**.

**Asset #5: Caring school climate—School provides a caring, encouraging environment.**

*Consider this . . .*

A caring school climate requires positive relationships among staff, among students, and between staff and students. Unfortunately, only 29 percent of young people say they experience this asset.

*Try this . . .*

School staff:

- Invite students or groups of students to join you for lunch.
- Make a list of all of the students in your school. Ask each staff person to identify the students they know beyond just a name and face. When you discover which students are “falling through the cracks,” make an effort to connect each of them with at least one caring adult in the school.
- Check out *Ideas That Cook: Activities for Asset Builders in School Communities*. It is filled with ideas that have been tested and refined by schools around the country (available from Search Institute, 800-888-7828).

Parents:

- Find out what kinds of activities are available in your children’s schools. Encourage them to find things they are interested in and get involved.

- Volunteer in a classroom or as part of a special event (or join a parent-teacher group).

Students:

- Volunteer to tutor or mentor younger students.
- Find an adult to help you organize a “school cleanup day.” Improve the physical environment of the campus by painting, cleaning, creating new displays, and so on.

From *Get the Word Out: Communication Tools and Ideas for Asset Builders Everywhere*.

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