

Guidance and Recommendations

To tailor enrichment programs to the diverse needs of youth and strengthen their engagement and participation, a 360 survey approach is key. Traditional self-reporting has limitations, prompting the inclusion of insights from caregivers, teachers, and students themselves. This holistic survey method provides a complete understanding of youth interests and learning preferences.

Prioritize youth surveys, differentiating based on developmental grade bands if necessary. Beyond standard surveys, explore dynamic methods like focus groups, large group discussions, or individual interviews. Consider the timing and frequency of data collection, recognizing that youth interests evolve—suggesting periodic surveys throughout a program cycle for continually relevant offerings.

Instructions

Summer Programs: Administer student interest surveys in the fall/winter preceding the summer program to gauge youth interest in various enrichment opportunities and allow ample program planning time.

Afterschool Programs: For new programs, administer youth interest surveys in spring for the fall and spring programs to gauge interest in various enrichment opportunities and allow for ample program planning time. For continuing programs, include youth interest inventory in the post-program satisfaction survey.

Program Satisfaction: Evaluate student satisfaction post-programming for continuous improvement and youth satisfaction.

References & Additional Resources

- [Assessing Students' Interests, University of Connecticut](#)
- [Kids Learning Style Survey Elementary](#)
- [Secondary Interest-A-Lyzer](#)
- [Child Interests Activity Checklist](#)

Survey Youth

Select 8 questions tailored to your goals. Distribute to youth to gain additional insights into their interests. Tailor your survey format and questions to align with the developmental needs of your audience. For younger participants, anticipate the need for verbal or visual expression rather than written responses. Plan for diverse survey formats and distribution methods, recognizing the possibility of multiple formats. Factor in the necessary technology, time allocation, and communication strategies for effective data collection. Utilize the sample questions below to generate surveys for youth that suits your needs, employing recommended platforms like Google Form, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey for older participants.

YOUTH INTEREST INVENTORY	
What is your favorite subject/class?	Outside of school, what activities are you involved in?
What is your favorite book?	What careers are you interested in?
What is your favorite music type/genre? Band/musician?	If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would go?
What is your favorite TV show?	Who do you follow on Instagram?
What is your favorite thing to do?	What are your favorite TikToks?
What are your hobbies?	Do you prefer to work independently or collaboratively/in a group?
What do you enjoy doing in your free time?	What CTE areas are you interested in? (list CTE categories)
What is your favorite sport/physical activity?	How much time screen time do you spend each day?
At school, what clubs/activities/sports do you participate in?	<p>Which areas are you interested in (<i>check all</i>): Civics/History, Coding, Computer Graphics, Culinary Arts, Environmental, Folk Art/Crafts, Gaming, Literary Arts, Music Tech & Video, Performing Arts (dance, music, theatre), Robotics, Sports/Recreation, STEM/STEAM, Visual Arts.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Align with categories on Enrichment Capacity Rubric. Consider adding: Automotive/mechanics, Trades, construction, architecture...</i></p>

Survey Families and Caregivers

Select 8 questions tailored to your goals. As you finalize your survey format and questions, communicate with families about the purpose and benefits of this data collection, emphasizing its role in program planning. Plan the distribution, monitoring, and follow-up for family surveys. Clarify the target audience, specifying if it's families of current or potential program participants, or all families associated with your organization. Use the sample questions below to build a survey for parents that suits your needs employing recommended platforms like Google Form, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey.

Additional resource: [Child Interests Activity Checklist](#)

YOUTH INTEREST INVENTORY FOR FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS

What is your child's favorite class in school?	What is your child's number one interest outside of school right now?
What careers has your child expressed interest in?	Who does your child most admire/look up to?
What does your child like to do in his/her time outside of school?	What would you say is your child's favorite hobby?
Does your child prefer to work independently or collaboratively in a group?	What brings your child joy?
How does your child spend the majority of his/her time outside of school? On computer or digital device? Independent activities? Group activities?	Does your child like to create new things?
What is your child's number one interest in school right now?	Does your child belong to any clubs or teams?

Survey Staff Members

Select 8 questions tailored to your goals. Distribute to teachers, administrators, and school staff to gather a holistic view of student interests from those who interact with them daily. When crafting your survey, consider the required technology, time, and potential communication and follow-up. Utilize the sample questions below to build a staff survey that suits your needs, employing recommended platforms like Google Form, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey.

YOUTH INTEREST INVENTORY FOR STAFF	
What grade level is the survey being completed for? <i>PK, K-2, 3-5, 6-8, HS</i>	Who do they admire/most look up to in popular culture?
What are students' favorite classes?	What are they following on TikTok? Instagram? YouTube?
What would you characterize as students' favorite part of the school day? <i>Can be academic or non-academic.</i>	How much daily screen time would you estimate they have?
What are the school's most popular clubs or teams?	How influenced are students by their peers? <i>Very Influenced, Somewhat Influence, Not Very Influenced</i>
When you observe students most engaged, what are they doing?	How would you characterize students' opportunity to experience new things outside of school? <i>Unlimited, Not Limited, Limited, Very Limited</i>
When you observe students most joyful, what are they doing?	How would you characterize students' interest in experiencing new things outside of school? <i>Unlimited, Not Limited, Limited, Very Limited</i>
What music/artists are students listening to?	If you had no constraints and could create any enrichment program imaginable to meet the interests of students and excite them about learning, what would it be?
What TV shows are they watching?	

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