



January 30, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Once again this year, Anne Arundel County Public Schools is administering an online survey to learn how parents, students, and staff feel about the climate at their school and to gain valuable information to use to improve the environment in which we educate children.

The Maryland Safe and Supportive Schools (MDS3) survey can be taken anytime from February 1, 2017, through March 10, 2017. Students (grades 3-11) and staff will be taking their survey in their schools. Parental input is equally valuable, and I am asking every parent to take a few minutes to take the survey.

The educational environment is a critical component to student success. We want our schools to be safe, supportive, and nurturing places where youngsters can learn, grow, and thrive. There is no question that schools with positive school climates are better places for students to learn and for staff to work.

We are particularly interested in perceptions of school climate, which include feelings about safety, relationships, and the learning environment of a school. The online survey about your child's school that we are asking you to complete will give you a chance to let us know what you think. Your participation is voluntary, and the survey is completely anonymous. No one will ever know your individual answers to any question. Therefore, please be as honest as possible. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers.

We anticipate that the survey will require approximately 10-15 minutes for you to complete. You can complete the survey at any time that is convenient for you. You can complete the online survey from any computer, tablet or smartphone.

To access the survey, go to <http://survey.pagequest.net> and enter the code **AACHesaSPP3** (these are school specific). Please note that students will receive separate codes when they take the survey at their school.

Thank you in advance for helping us improve the climate of your child's school and our overall school system.

Sincerely,

George Arlotto, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

GA/bm