



MCC Caring Schools Network 2019 - 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Caring School?

Caring Schools are communities where students feel safe and supported and learn to become responsible and constructive members of a community. In these school communities, students can grow academically, build healthy relationships, and develop key social and emotional skills such as empathy and gratitude.

The Caring Schools Network helps schools use their data to better understand how students, staff, and parents experience their school community. In addition, the Caring Schools Network gives schools access to easy-to-implement research-based strategies that promote children's social and emotional learning, increase caring and connectedness, and reduce problem behaviors. Schools have access as well to the knowledge and insight of leaders in the field.

In addition, the new Caring Schools Network is more closely aligned with projects across Making Caring Common, such as our [Caring Schools #CommonGood Campaign](#), our [Empathy Strategies research](#), and our [Youth Advisory Board](#). For more information about MCC, please visit our website at makingcaringcommon.org.

Who can participate in the Caring Schools Network?

All schools serving students in grades 6 - 12 are eligible. In the past, we have worked with nearly 200 district, independent, religiously affiliated, and charter schools nationwide, in addition to several international schools.

How much does participation in the Caring Schools Network cost?

The Caring Schools Network is \$1500 per academic year. Schools can choose to bring a member of the Making Caring Common team to campus for an additional fee.

How does participation in the Caring Schools Network benefit my school?

Your participation can help create a more positive, caring environment in your school and promote in children key ethical, social, and emotional capacities. This work can help you and your colleagues develop a positive school culture in which young people care about others, take responsibility, and are committed to justice and the common good.



What does participation mean for us?

Our team helps schools administer school-wide student and teacher surveys and interpret the results. We then provide relevant strategies depending on each school's data. Schools also have the option to bring a member of the Making Caring Common team to campus for a presentation or in-person consultation.

How can we address the challenge areas we may find through the survey results?

We'll provide schools a data report and set of recommended actions, and work closely with them to implement low-lift strategies, resources, and routines available exclusively to Caring Schools Network members. These resources address problem behaviors like bullying and sexual harassment AND develop students' positive social-emotional skills, such as empathy, gratitude, and the ability to listen.

How can my school sign up?

There is an easy registration process to become a member of the Caring Schools Network. After you complete the [interest form](#), a member of our team will be in touch to discuss the next steps.

Is this a research project?

Not really. We see this opportunity as different from traditional research projects, as collected data will primarily serve to support members as they make decisions about their school culture and climate. MCC will assist schools in interpreting their student, staff, and parent data and in planning or identifying possible actions (e.g., implementation of new strategies).

Because the survey portion of the MCC Caring Schools Network counts as research, consent is required. However, students, school staff, and parents will be able to consent online when prompted to take the survey. The process is very easy, and all participants are told the survey is voluntary and confidential. For children under 18 years of age, parents may have to submit a parent permission form if they do NOT want their child to participate. If your school/district requires it, we can provide the permission form at least two weeks prior to survey administration, along with guidance as to how to distribute and collect the form from parents.

The survey data may be compiled across participating schools and may be used for educational and research purposes; all data will be de-identified at the school and student level and schools will never be named in our reports. The services that are provided in addition to the survey, such as recommendations for strategies and resources based on the data are not research; they build from and support the data to help schools create more caring, inclusive communities.



We would like to let our school community know about our collaboration with Making Caring Common and the Caring Schools Network. Is that okay?

Absolutely! We encourage you to let members of your school community know about your participation in the Caring Schools Network. Please find below language you can use to let others know about your participation:

Organization Name: Making Caring Common, a Project of the Harvard Graduate School of Education

Project: Caring Schools Network

Suggested Language: [School name] is a member of the Caring Schools Network! We are collaborating with Making Caring Common, a project of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, to build a more caring, inclusive school community where students feel safe, supported, and connected. As a member of the Caring Schools Network, we will use survey data to better understand how students, staff, and parents experience our school community. We will also have access to research-based strategies and insights from leaders in the field of education to promote safety, caring, and respect in our community. Learn more about MCC's Caring Schools Network at <https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/caring-schools>.

We cannot participate in the Caring Schools Network but are interested in your work. How else can we be involved?

We encourage you to visit our [website](#) to learn more about our project; in particular, schools can view our [Caring Schools Toolkit](#) page to view some of our [strategies](#) and [resources](#) to support safety, caring, and respect in schools. You are also welcome to [sign up for our mailing list](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).