

A NEW METHOD FOR MEASURING SCHOOL CLIMATE

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Keywords: school climate; climate perception; Cultural-Ecological Model

School climate refers to the quality of school life. It is based on people's experiences of school life (teachers, students and parents) and reflects on the norms, goals, learning environments and organizational structures (Cohen, 2009). It affects the psychological and academic outcomes of the people in the school (Anderson, 1982). School climate is divided into four aspects: Safety, Teaching and Learning, Relationships and Environment (Freiberg, 1999). Prior research examined several individual and classroom factors which relate to the perception of school climate. La Salle and her colleagues (2015) presented the Cultural-Ecological Model of School Climate (CEMSC), which reveals the interrelationships between individual characteristics, culture, community and school climate. There has been a need for a new instrument that could assess these factors, so researchers designed the Georgia Brief School Climate Survey, based on Freiberg's four dimensions (White et al., 2014). The advantage of this scale is that it can measure school climate from the students', the parents' and the teachers' perspective. The International School Psychology Association (ISPA) funded the adaptation of the survey in 11 countries; in Hungary this work was undertaken in collaboration with The Psychology Institute of the University of Szeged. A total of 1664 people from 5 elementary schools participated in the Hungarian study (1128 students, 456 parents and 80 teachers). The survey was administered twice, in 2018 and in 2019. The results of the exploratory factor analysis indicate a discrepancy from the original structure, but the overall reliabilities of the scales are acceptable (Cronbach's $\alpha > .7$). The reliability of the Parents's Scale (Cronbach's $\alpha = .91$) and the Elementary Student's Scale (Cronbach's $\alpha = .91$) are excellent, while the Personnel's Scale (Cronbach's $\alpha = .89$) and the Secondary Student's Scale (Cronbach's $\alpha = .86$) are good. The aim of this presentation is to introduce the Hungarian survey, the subscales and to discuss the methodological issues.