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To: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

From: New Teacher Center, NC TWC Team

Date: June 6, 2016

Subject: 2016 NC TWC - Technical Error Resulting in Omitted Survey Items

For the 2016 administration of the North Carolina Working Conditions Survey, nine questions were incorrectly routed due to a technical error. As a consequence of this routing error, the nine items appeared only on surveys for the Virtual Public Schools, rather than for all educators. Therefore, comparison data for the misrouted items will only be available for the Virtual Public Schools on the [2016 Summary Comparison Web Reports](#). The routing error was discovered after the 2016 survey deployed and processes are in place to prevent such errors from occurring in the future.

Eight of the misrouted items are part of the *Instructional Practices & Support* (IPL) section of the survey and one item is part of the *School Leadership* section. Please see the table on page 2 for a full list. An examination of the IPL and School Leadership constructs revealed that the omission of these items had minimal impact on the two constructs; 2016 results were comparable to 2014 in spite of the missing items. However, external researchers who wish to analyze 2016 data at the construct level should contact the New Teacher Center (helpdesk@ncteachingconditions.org) for additional guidance.

If you have any questions about this issue, please contact Dawn Shephard, Associate Director (dshephard@newteachercenter.org).

NC TWC Team

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Instructional Practices and Support and School Leadership Items: 2014 and 2016 Distribution Groups and Average Rates of Agreement

Note: Highlighted items were misrouted in 2016.

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES AND SUPPORT	2014	2016
State assessment data are available in time to impact instructional practices.	All	All
Local assessment data are available in time to impact instructional practices.	All	All
State assessments accurately gauge students' understanding of standards.	All	All
Teachers believe almost every student has the potential to do well on assignments.	All	All
Teachers believe what is taught will make a difference in students' lives.	All	All
Teachers require students to work hard.	All	All
Teachers collaborate to achieve consistency on how student work is assessed.	All	All
Teachers know what students learn in each of their classes.	All	All
Teachers have knowledge of the content covered and instructional methods used by other teachers at this school.	All	All
Teachers use digital content and resources in their instruction.	**	All
Teachers use assessment data to inform their instruction.	All	VPS
The curriculum taught in this school is aligned with Common Core Standards.	All	VPS
Teachers work in professional learning communities (ELCs) to develop and align instructional practices.	All	VPS
Provided supports (i.e. instructional coaching, professional learning communities, etc.) translate to improvements in instructional practices by teachers.	All	VPS
Teachers are encouraged to try new things to improve instruction.	All	VPS
Teachers are assigned classes that maximize their likelihood of success with students.	All	VPS
Teachers have autonomy to make decisions about instructional delivery (i.e. pacing, materials and pedagogy).	All	VPS
State assessments provide schools with data that can help improve teaching.	All	VPS
<i>Instructional Practices and Support</i> Items Average Rate of Agreement:	82%	82%
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP	2014	2016
The faculty and leadership have a shared vision.	All	VPS
There is an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect in this school.	All	All
Teachers feel comfortable raising issues and concerns that are important to them.	All	All
The school leadership consistently supports teachers.	All	All
Teachers are held to high professional standards for delivering instruction.	All	All
The school leadership facilitates using data to improve student learning.	All	All
Teacher performance is assessed objectively.	All	All
Teachers receive feedback that can help them improve teaching.	All	All
The procedures for teacher evaluation are consistent.	All	All
The school improvement team provides effective leadership at this school.	All	All
The faculty are recognized for accomplishments.	All	All
<i>School Leadership</i> Items Average Rate of Agreement:	85%	84%

Notes. VPS = Virtual Public Schools; *This item was new in 2016.