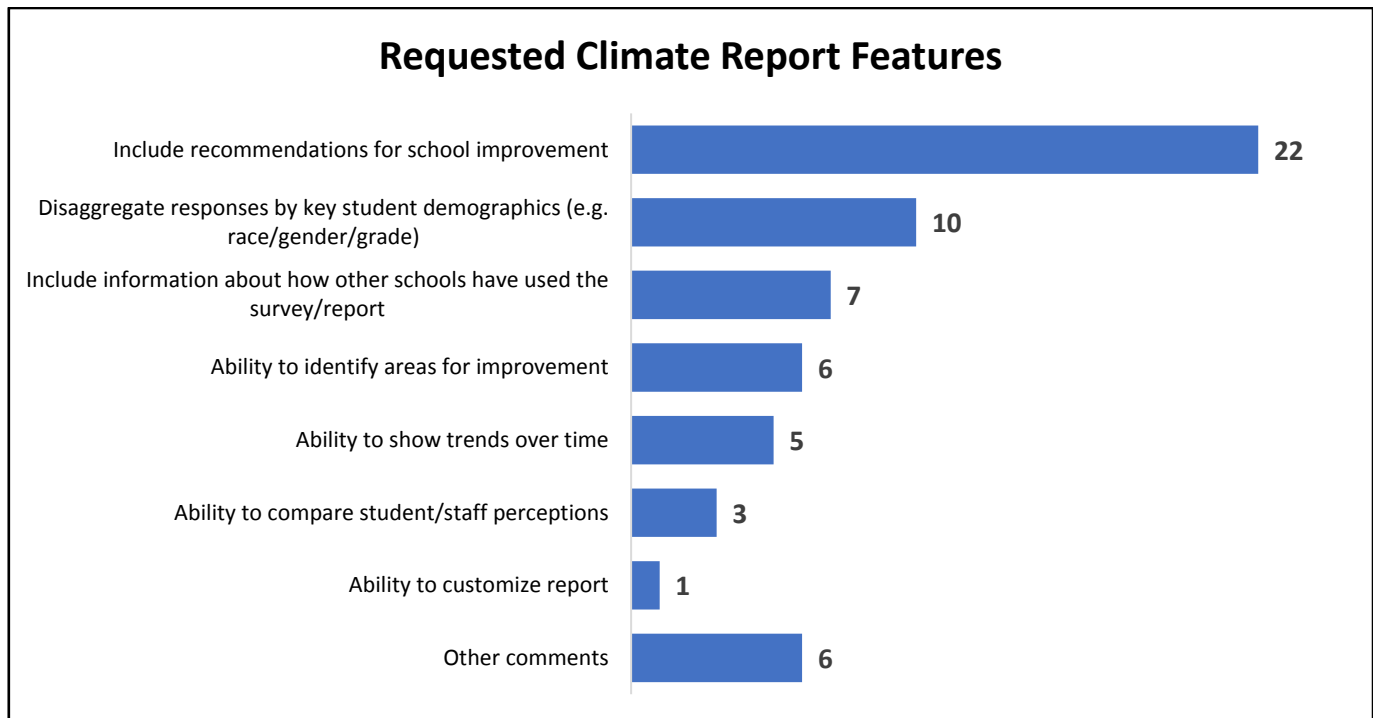## Practical Findings from the Virginia School Climate Survey

What do school administrators want in school climate reports?

In 2018, all 322 high school principals were asked for their feedback on the Virginia Secondary School Survey administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Approximately 88% (283) of the principals completed the survey and answered one or more questions. When asked "What would you like to see in the school climate report that would help improve the school?" there were 161 responses. The chart summarizes the most frequent requests for report features.

Requested Climate Report Features

Feature	Count
Include recommendations for school improvement	22
Disaggregate responses by key student demographics (e.g. race/gender/grade)	10
Include information about how other schools have used the survey/report	7
Ability to identify areas for improvement	6
Ability to show trends over time	5
Ability to compare student/staff perceptions	3
Ability to customize report	1
Other comments	6

Themes from Administrator Interviews

In-depth interviews were conducted with 10 school and division-level administrators. Administrators indicated they like receiving the report early because they use it in their needs assessment for their school improvement plan in May/June. While administrators expressed a desire to "see data over two or three years," they also appreciated that the survey is not currently administered annually. Administrators would like to be able to disaggregate data by student demographics. One administrator explained they need to "make sure that our good data doesn't cover a vulnerable group that has a different experience. Maybe our students with disabilities are reporting a tremendous amount of being bullied, but it's covered by the fact that our non-disabled kids are not reporting that." Administrators like that the current report compares their school to the region and the state, but noted, "It's equally important to know how your school compares to your division and knowing what your division results are." Finally, administrators stated that while they appreciate all of the data, there is so much information that they would like key findings to be highlighted.