

# **Southern Regional Education Board**

## **Middle Grades Assessment**

### **Book 1: The Student Survey**

755218



## DIRECTIONS

This assessment uses four different booklets, each with different questions. As you work through each booklet, read each question carefully and answer it as well as you can. Do not spend too much time on any one question. Each booklet has several sections. You will be told when to begin each section. Stop when you see this sign.



If you finish a section early, you may check your work on that section only. Do not begin another section until you are told to continue. Now read **SAMPLE 1**. The choices for some questions will be written across the page as shown.

### SAMPLE 1

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	<b>Almost every day</b>	<b>Once or twice a week</b>	<b>Once or twice a month</b>	<b>Never or hardly ever</b>
1. How often do you watch movies on television?	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>

There is no correct answer to this question. Your answer will tell us how often you watch movies on television.

Now read **SAMPLE 2**. The choices for some questions will be presented down the page as shown.

### SAMPLE 2

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2. How many books have you read this year?
- A.** None
  - B.** 1–3
  - C.** 4–8
  - D.** More than 8

**REMEMBER:**

Read each question CAREFULLY.

Fill in only ONE CIRCLE on your answer document for each question unless otherwise instructed.

If you change your answer, ERASE your first answer COMPLETELY.

CHECK OVER your work if you finish a section early.



# THE STUDENT SURVEY

Fill in only one circle (unless noted otherwise) for each question on your answer document. Your responses to the survey are completely confidential and will not be used to identify you in any way.

1. Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Mark all that apply.)
  - A. American Indian/Alaska Native
  - B. Asian
  - C. Black or African-American
  - D. Hispanic or Latino
  - E. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
  - F. White
  
2. What is your gender?
  - A. Female
  - B. Male
  
3. What is your best language?
  - A. English
  - B. A language other than English
  - C. English and another language equally
  
4. How far in school did your mother go?
  - A. Did not graduate high school
  - B. Graduated high school or got a GED
  - C. Some education after high school (this includes some college, including two-year colleges and trade or vocational programs)
  - D. Graduated from a four-year college
  - E. I don't know.
  
5. How far in school did your father go?
  - A. Did not graduate high school
  - B. Graduated high school or got a GED
  - C. Some education after high school (this includes some college, including two-year colleges and trade or vocational programs)
  - D. Graduated from a four-year college
  - E. I don't know.

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6. On an average school day, how many hours do you spend watching television and videos or playing computer or video games before or after school?
- A. None
  - B. 1 hour or less
  - C. 2 hours
  - D. 3 hours
  - E. 4 hours
  - F. 5 hours or more
7. About how many hours each day do you usually spend on homework?
- A. I don't usually have homework assigned.
  - B. I have homework, but I don't usually do it.
  - C. Less than 30 minutes
  - D. 30 minutes to 1 hour
  - E. Between 1 and 2 hours
  - F. More than 2 hours

**Questions 8–10.** In the middle grades, were you placed in advanced or honors classes in any of the following subjects?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
8. Mathematics	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
9. Science	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
10. English/language arts	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>



11. How much education do you think you will complete?
- A. Less than high school graduation
  - B. Graduate from high school or obtain a GED
  - C. Complete a career/technical, trade or business school program
  - D. Two or more years of college (including a two-year degree)
  - E. Finish college (a four- or five-year degree)
  - F. A graduate degree (Master’s degree, Doctoral degree or other professional degree, e.g., M.D. or law)
  - G. I don’t know.

**Questions 12–15.** Sometimes students are put in groups with other students of similar academic ability. What academic ability group are you in for the following classes?

	<b>High</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>We aren’t grouped</b>	<b>I don’t know</b>
12. Mathematics	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
13. Science	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
14. English/language arts	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
15. Social Studies	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>

**Questions 16–18.** How important do **you** believe it is to:

	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>
16. Participate actively in class	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
17. Study hard to get good grades	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
18. Graduate from high school	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>

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19. Since the beginning of sixth grade, how many times have you changed schools?
- A. None
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 times
  - D. 3 times or more

**Question 20–45.** For each question below, fill in the circle that best expresses your views about your experiences in the middle grades.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
20. My courses are exciting and challenging.	A	B	C	D
21. My courses repeat things that I have already learned.	A	B	C	D
22. I can easily talk with an adult at school about any problems.	A	B	C	D
23. Most of my teachers encourage me to do well in school.	A	B	C	D
24. My teachers set high standards for me and are willing to help me meet them.	A	B	C	D
25. My teachers clearly indicate the amount and quality of work that are necessary to earn a grade of A or B at the beginning of a project or unit.	A	B	C	D
26. My teachers care about me enough that they will not let me get by without doing the work.	A	B	C	D
27. My teachers know their subject and can make it interesting and useful.	A	B	C	D
28. My teachers show how what we learn in class is used in the real world.	A	B	C	D
29. My teachers encourage students to help each other and learn from each other.	A	B	C	D



	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
30. I am able to get extra help from my teachers when I need it without much difficulty.	A	B	C	D
31. School and classroom rules are defined and clear.	A	B	C	D
32. School and classroom rules are enforced fairly.	A	B	C	D
33. I have had to develop and analyze tables, charts and/or graphs in my school work.	A	B	C	D
34. I have used word-processing software to complete an assignment or project.	A	B	C	D
35. I have used the Internet to find information for completing assignments.	A	B	C	D
36. I work hard to meet high standards on assignments.	A	B	C	D
37. I revise my essays or other written work several times to improve their quality.	A	B	C	D
38. In my classes, I work with other students to revise and improve assignments.	A	B	C	D
39. In classes other than English/language arts, we use what we read to discuss, write and complete projects.	A	B	C	D
40. In classes other than English, I research a topic before I write a paper.	A	B	C	D
41. In my classes, I am required to redo work that does not meet standards.	A	B	C	D
42. I study for tests with a study partner.	A	B	C	D
43. I use a daily planner or agenda book.	A	B	C	D



- |   | <b>Never</b>  | <b>Rarely</b> | <b>Sometimes</b> | <b>Often</b> |
|---|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| 44. I know when projects are due.   | <b>A</b>      | <b>B</b>      | <b>C</b>         | <b>D</b>     |
| 45. I study for tests over several days.  | <b>A</b>      | <b>B</b>      | <b>C</b>         | <b>D</b>     |
| 46. I was encouraged by a counselor or teacher to take Pre-Algebra in sixth, seventh or eighth grade. |               |               |                  |              |
|   | <b>A. Yes</b> |               |                  |              |
|   | <b>B. No</b>  |               |                  |              |
| 47. I was encouraged by a counselor or teacher to take Algebra in seventh or eighth grade.            |               |               |                  |              |
|   | <b>A. Yes</b> |               |                  |              |
|   | <b>B. No</b>  |               |                  |              |
| 48. I completed Algebra I before or during the eighth grade.  |               |               |                  |              |
|   | <b>A. Yes</b> |               |                  |              |
|   | <b>B. No</b>  |               |                  |              |

**Questions 49–52.** How often have you completed short writing assignments of one to three pages and received a grade in the following classes?

- |                           | <b>Never</b> | <b>Once a year</b> | <b>Once a semester</b> | <b>Monthly</b> | <b>Weekly</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 49. English/language arts | <b>A</b>     | <b>B</b>           | <b>C</b>               | <b>D</b>       | <b>E</b>      |
| 50. Mathematics           | <b>A</b>     | <b>B</b>           | <b>C</b>               | <b>D</b>       | <b>E</b>      |
| 51. Science               | <b>A</b>     | <b>B</b>           | <b>C</b>               | <b>D</b>       | <b>E</b>      |
| 52. Social Studies        | <b>A</b>     | <b>B</b>           | <b>C</b>               | <b>D</b>       | <b>E</b>      |



**Questions 53–60.** Please answer each question below about the extra help you may have received in school.

	<b>Did not need help</b>	<b>Needed help, but did not get it</b>	<b>A few times a year</b>	<b>About once a month</b>	<b>About once a week</b>	<b>A few times a week</b>
53. How often have you received the extra help you needed in <b>mathematics</b> from teachers or other adults at your school?	A	B	C	D	E	F
54. How often have you received the extra help you needed in <b>reading</b> from a reading specialist or other adults at your school?	A	B	C	D	E	F
55. How often are your teachers or other adults in the school available to you before, during or after school to help you with your studies?	A	B	C	D	E	F
56. How often do you use a computer in extra help sessions?	A	B	C	D	E	F
57. How often did you receive the extra help you needed from another student?	A	B	C	D	E	F
		<b>Did not receive extra help</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Rarely</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Often</b>
58. The extra help I received at school helped me to understand my schoolwork better.	A	B	C	D	E	
59. I tried harder on my schoolwork after receiving extra help.	A	B	C	D	E	
60. I received better grades after receiving extra help.	A	B	C	D	E	

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61. Do you practice reading in a separate reading class?

- A. Yes
- B. No

**Questions 62–66.** Now, thinking back over this school year, how often did you:

	<b>Never</b>	<b>Rarely</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Often</b>
62. Try to do your best work in school	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
63. Find school work too hard to understand	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
64. Find your classes interesting	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
65. Fail to complete or turn in your assignments	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
66. Get sent to the office or have to stay after school because you misbehaved	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>

67. Did you ever attend summer school to catch up on your classes?

- A. Yes
- B. No

68. Do you have a written plan for courses you will take in high school?

- A. Yes
- B. No

69. Did your parents or guardians **and** someone at school help you write your plan for courses you will take in high school?

- A. Yes
- B. No



**Questions 70–72.** Did you and your parents or guardians talk with someone at school about what you need to do in the middle grades to get ready for high school in:

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
70. Sixth grade	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
71. Seventh grade	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
72. Eighth grade	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>

**Questions 73–75.** How often have you talked with the following people about what classes you will take in high school?

	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>Several times</b>	<b>A great deal</b>
73. Your parents, step-parents or other adults with whom you live	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
74. A guidance counselor	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
75. Teachers	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>

76. Did you and your parents or guardians meet with a counselor, teacher or other school representative to plan your high school program of study?

- A.** Yes
- B.** No

77. Did you take part in a parent-teacher-student conference about your school work at least once a year?

- A.** Yes
- B.** No

78. Have teachers or other adults at school talked with you about what you will need to know and be able to do in the ninth grade?

- A.** Yes
- B.** No

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**About your English/language arts classes:**

**Questions 79–85.** How often have you done each of the following activities in your **English/language arts** classes?

	<b>Never</b>	<b>Once a year</b>	<b>Once a semester</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
79. Read an assigned book outside class and demonstrated that I understood the main ideas	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
80. Was given samples of high-quality work to use as models for my own work	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
81. Wrote a major research paper (with footnotes and works cited/bibliography)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
82. Wrote a major research paper (with footnotes and works cited/bibliography) on a subject that I chose	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
83. Used word-processing or presentation software to complete assignments	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
84. Discussed or debated topics with other students about what I have read in English/language arts classes	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
85. Stood before the class and made an oral presentation on a project or assignment to meet specific quality requirements	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
86. How much time do you spend reading <b>outside of school</b> in a typical day?					
<b>A.</b> None					
<b>B.</b> 30 minutes or less					
<b>C.</b> About 1 hour					
<b>D.</b> About 1.5 hours					
<b>E.</b> 2 hours or more					

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87. How many books have you read this year both in and out of school?

- A. None
- B. Fewer than 3
- C. Between 3 and 5
- D. Between 6 and 10
- E. Between 11 and 20
- F. More than 20

**About your Mathematics classes:**

**Questions 88–98.** How often have you done each of the following activities in your **mathematics** classes?

	Never	Once a year	Once a semester	Monthly	Weekly
88. Solved mathematics problems other than from textbooks	A	B	C	D	E
89. Worked with measuring instruments such as a ruler, meter stick or scale	A	B	C	D	E
90. Used cubes, right triangles and other geometric solids	A	B	C	D	E
91. Used a scientific calculator to complete mathematics assignments	A	B	C	D	E
92. Used a graphing calculator to complete mathematics assignments	A	B	C	D	E
93. Worked with other students in my class on a challenging mathematics assignment	A	B	C	D	E
94. Worked in groups to brainstorm how we could solve a mathematics problem	A	B	C	D	E
95. Explained to the class how I solved a mathematics problem	A	B	C	D	E

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- |  | Never | Once<br>a year | Once a<br>semester | Monthly | Weekly |
|--|-------|----------------|--------------------|---------|--------|
| 96. Explained different ways for solving mathematics problems      | A     | B              | C                  | D       | E      |
| 97. Wrote a few sentences about how I solved a mathematics problem | A     | B              | C                  | D       | E      |
| 98. Use my math skills to solve problems in other classes          | A     | B              | C                  | D       | E      |
99. Did your mathematics teachers show you how math can be used to solve problems in real life?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
100. Which mathematics course are you taking this year?
- A. Pre-Algebra
  - B. Algebra I
  - C. Geometry
  - D. Algebra II
  - E. Integrated or sequential mathematics
  - F. Other mathematics courses
101. What mathematics course do you expect to take in the ninth grade?
- A. Applied mathematics (technical preparation)
  - B. Pre-Algebra
  - C. Algebra I
  - D. Geometry
  - E. Algebra II
  - F. Integrated or sequential mathematics
  - G. Other mathematics courses
  - H. I don't know.

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**About your Science classes:**

102. Which science course are you taking this year?
- A. I am not taking a science course this year.
  - B. Life science (for example, plants, animals, all living things, biology)
  - C. Physical science (for example, energy, motion, machinery, chemistry or physics)
  - D. Earth science (for example, rocks, minerals, geology or astronomy)
  - E. Integrated science (several areas of science taught together)

**Questions 103–109.** Have you ever done hands-on activities or projects with the following in any of your **science** classes?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
103. Living things (for example, plants, animals, bacteria)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
104. Electricity (for example, batteries and flashlight bulbs)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
105. Chemistry (for example, elements, compounds or mixtures)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
106. Rocks or minerals	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
107. Simple machines (for example, pulleys and levers)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
108. Weather	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
109. Environment	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>

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110. Do you ever do science projects in school that take a week or more?
- A. Yes  
B. No
111. When you do science experiments or investigations in school, do you use a laptop computer, lab book or notebook for keeping your records, logs and comments?
- A. Yes  
B. No

**Questions 112–120.** How often have you done each of the following activities in your **science** classes?

	Never	Once a year	Once a semester	Monthly	Weekly
112. Read an assigned book (besides the textbook) or article dealing with science	A	B	C	D	E
113. Used equipment to do activities in a science laboratory with tables and sinks	A	B	C	D	E
114. Used computers or technology to do science activities	A	B	C	D	E
115. Completed a science lab assignment in which I used science to address a problem found outside of school	A	B	C	D	E
116. Worked with other students in my class on a challenging science assignment	A	B	C	D	E
117. Completed written laboratory reports on science investigations	A	B	C	D	E
118. Participated in a classroom discussion relating science to everyday life	A	B	C	D	E
119. Used mathematical skills to solve problems in science	A	B	C	D	E
120. Wrote long answers to questions on tests in science	A	B	C	D	E

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**Questions 121–124.** For laboratory investigations in science, how often are/were you required to:

	<b>Never</b>	<b>Once a year</b>	<b>Once a semester</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
121. Choose a topic for investigation	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
122. Design an experiment about that topic	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
123. Prepare a written report of the lab results	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
124. Talk to the class about the lab results	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>

**Questions 125–134.** How often do you expect to do the following activities in ninth grade, based on what your teachers have told you?

	<b>Never</b>	<b>Once a year</b>	<b>Once a semester</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Ninth-grade English:</b>					
125. Read an assigned book	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
126. Take notes from a lecture	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
127. Write a short paper of one to three pages	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>

**Ninth-grade Mathematics:**

128. Use a graphing calculator to solve problems	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
129. Use mathematics to solve real-world problems	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
130. Complete extensive homework assignments	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>

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	Never	Once a year	Once a semester	Monthly	Weekly
--	-------	----------------	--------------------	---------	--------

**Ninth-grade Science:**

- |  |          |          |          |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 131. Conduct laboratory experiments  | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> |
| 132. Write up the results of a laboratory experiment                       | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> |
| 133. Defend the results of a scientific investigation orally or in writing | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> |
| 134. Take science tests that require long written answers                  | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> |
135. Do you choose your best work to keep in a folder/portfolio of your accomplishments?
- A.** Yes
  - B.** No
136. About how many pages a day do you have to read **in school and for homework**?
- A.** 5 or fewer
  - B.** 6–10
  - C.** 11–15
  - D.** 16–20
  - E.** More than 20
137. How many days of school did you miss last month?
- A.** None
  - B.** 1–2 days
  - C.** 3–4 days
  - D.** 5–10 days
  - E.** More than 10 days

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138. How often do you use a computer at school for schoolwork?

- A. Almost every day
- B. Once or twice a week
- C. Once or twice a month
- D. Never or hardly ever

139. Do you use the Internet at home?

- A. Yes
- B. No

**Questions 140–144.** Do you avoid any of the following places because you think they are unsafe?

	<b>Never avoid</b>	<b>Sometimes avoid</b>	<b>Always avoid</b>
140. School bathrooms	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
141. School cafeteria	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
142. Gym or gym locker room	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
143. Parking lot or other school grounds	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
144. Neighborhoods around the school	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>

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**Questions 145–156.** Which of the following classes do you attend at least once a week in this school?

	<b>Attend</b>	<b>Do not attend</b>
145. Foreign language	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
146. Art	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
147. Music	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
148. Computer education	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
149. Home economics (family and consumer science)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
150. Shop (i.e., industrial arts, technology education)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
151. Keyboarding	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
152. Agriculture	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
153. Drama or speech	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
154. Physical education (gym)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
155. Gateway to Technology	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
156. English as a second language	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>



**NO SURVEY QUESTIONS ON THIS PAGE.**

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