

# School Connectedness in the MetroWest Region

Highlights from the 2023 MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey (Grades 6-12)

## Most middle school and high school youth report feeling connected to their school.\*

### Middle School

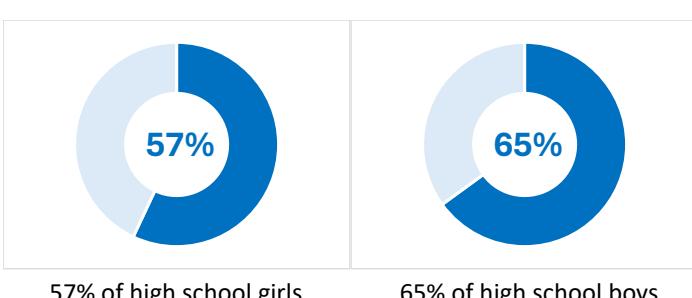
64%	← Feel close to people at this school →
64%	← Feel like part of this school →
54%	← Are happy to be at this school →
56%	← Feel teachers treat students fairly →
69%	← Feel safe in their school →

### High School

61%
61%
58%
60%
72%



## Feeling like part of this school\* is reported by:



## School connectedness is lower among:

### Youth with disabilities†



For example, in middle school:

58% of youth with disabilities feel close to people at school (vs. 66% of youth without disabilities).

46% of youth with disabilities are happy to be at their school (vs. 56% of youth without disabilities).

### LGBTQ+ youth



For example, in high school:

51% of LGBTQ+ youth feel close to people at school (vs. 64% of heterosexual cisgender youth).

47% of LGBTQ+ youth feel happy to be at their school (vs. 61% of heterosexual cisgender youth).

## Youth who lack school connectedness are more likely to have poor mental health and report risk behaviors.

For example, youth who don't feel like part of their school report:

### Depressive symptoms

**3.2x** higher depressive symptoms in MS (past 12 months)

**2.6x** higher depressive symptoms in HS (past 12 months)

### Substance Use

**2.2x** higher alcohol use in MS (in their lifetime)

**1.9x** higher nicotine vaping in HS (past 30 days)

### School bullying

**2.0x** higher risk of being bullied at school in MS (past 12 months)

**2.1x** higher risk of being bullied at school in HS (past 12 months)