In order to create an impactful project that has the ability to improve your school, you first need to know where your school could be improved. We provide you with two options to assess your school climate: The **School Climate Walkthrough** and the **School Climate Survey**.

The **School Climate Walkthrough**, presented in the next few pages, is a tool you can use with your team in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your school and help your team to pick a project that promotes positive change.

**School Climate** is a term that encompasses a variety of characteristics that make up a school such as the look of your school, the opportunities that are offered, feelings of safety, respect for diversity, and relationships between school community members.

**Instructions:**

1. Plan to complete the **School Climate Walkthrough** activity in an inspirED team meeting. It will most likely take about 30 to 45 minutes depending on the length of your discussions.

2. For best results, be sure to include your educator advocate and a diverse range of student perspectives when completing this activity.

3. Either access the **School Climate Walkthrough** on a computer or print it out.

4. Choose one member of the team to be the reader. The reader should read the walkthrough slowly and with lots of pauses for people to think. They should use a calm voice that’s loud enough for everyone to hear.

5. Place your chairs in a circle and take a seat.

6. Have the chosen member lead the **School Climate Walkthrough**.

7. After your group has completed the walkthrough, proceed to **School Climate Discussion** to discuss what you may have discovered during the experience.
Please either close your eyes or look at the floor. I am going to lead you through a mental walkthrough of a typical school day, and invite you to reflect on the emotions that you and other students feel during school. You can either do this activity through your own eyes or watching yourself from above.

You begin your day by looking at the outside of your school as you approach the front doors. Try to picture what the building looks like and notice the emotions you may be feeling as you approach. Now you are walking through the front doors of your school. Is it chaotic and noisy? Is it relaxing and inviting? Think about how people may be acting. Maybe students are laughing with their friends or maybe teachers are yelling at students. Visualize what your hallways look like.

As you walk through the hallways, how do you feel? Are the hallways too crowded? Do you feel safe? Try to picture typical interactions between students in your hallways, between adults, and between students and adults. Maybe you see students laughing and walking with their friends. Do people look happy or do they looked stressed? What typically happens in the hallways of your school? Maybe the hallways are relatively quiet, maybe there are fights. Try to gather some images in your head of what your hallways typically look like as you walk from class to class.

Now try to place yourself in the classes that you have during the day. You may like some classes better than others. How do you feel in your different classes? Are students treated equally and respectfully by teachers and students? You probably have different emotions associated with different classes; take a moment to think about each teacher and classroom now.

Next, let’s think about the students in your different classes. How do other students make you feel? Maybe students listen to each other in your classes and engage in discussions. Maybe your classes are loud, maybe your classes are quiet. Are you comfortable sharing your ideas in front of the class? Consider what support is in place for students who may be struggling. Gather some images of your classes in your head and try to label some pleasant and unpleasant characteristics of your experiences. As you leave your classes, try to imagine how you feel.

Now envision yourself at lunch. How are you feeling as you are sitting in the lunchroom or cafeteria? Do the students have enough healthy food to eat? Picture your surroundings: the look and feel of the lunchroom, whether the walls are decorated or not, the smells in the air. Do you see students sitting with their friends or are they sitting alone? Are there unspoken rules in your lunchroom where certain people can or cannot sit? Try to visualize the facial expressions of the students around you. Maybe students are smiling or maybe they look sad.

Now think back over the whole school day. How connected do you feel to your school? What were the most common emotions that you felt? How are you feeling in your body as the day ends? If someone asks you, “how was school?” how would you answer? Finally, do you feel proud to say you go to your school?

Now open your eyes. We have just spent a few moments reflecting on school climate. Maybe there were specific places in school or moments throughout the day that carried strong feelings for you. Let’s talk about it.