

Spring 2024 Barr Engage New England Student Survey - Nowell Leadership Academy Full Report

SRI Education researchers surveyed Nowell Leadership Academy (Nowell) students in spring 2024. At Nowell, 112 out of 172 students responded to the survey, for a school response rate of 65%. Across the Beyond ENE initiative, 403 out of 632 students responded to the survey, for an initiative response rate of 64%.

This report presents item-level responses of students from Nowell. As a comparison, we also present the distribution of school means (mean, standard deviation, minimum, and maximum) for the 5 Beyond ENE schools.

Table 1. Sense of Belonging

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Sense of Belonging (construct)					
Nowell	111	3.84	0.84	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.78	0.21	3.55	4.07
People at this school are friendly to me.					
Nowell	110	3.97	0.82	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.97	0.25	3.64	4.35
Other students here like me the way I am.					
Nowell	110	3.74	0.89	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.72	0.15	3.58	3.97
People at my school care if I am absent.					
Nowell	110	3.71	1.15	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.63	0.25	3.28	3.94
People really listen to me when I am at school.					
Nowell	110	3.84	1.00	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.73	0.26	3.41	4.05

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.

Table 2. Student-Teacher Relationships

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Student-Teacher Relationships (construct)					
Nowell	112	4.20	0.74	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.21	0.21	3.92	4.47
Teachers at my school listen to me.					
Nowell	112	4.23	0.82	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.20	0.24	3.84	4.52
My teachers care about me.					
Nowell	110	4.18	0.78	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.23	0.20	3.95	4.46
My teachers are there for me when I need them.					
Nowell	110	4.20	0.80	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.22	0.22	3.98	4.52

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.

Table 3. Classroom Engagement Comfort Level

For these items, students were asked to indicate for how many of their classes the following statements were true.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Classroom Engagement Comfort Level (construct)					
Nowell	111	3.73	1.00	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.68	0.21	3.41	3.97
I feel comfortable sharing my ideas.					
Nowell	111	3.64	1.14	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.65	0.12	3.54	3.85
I feel it is okay to make mistakes in front of my classmates.					
Nowell	110	3.60	1.24	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.54	0.28	3.11	3.89
I feel comfortable asking questions if I don't understand something.					
Nowell	110	3.92	1.05	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.86	0.26	3.55	4.23

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = none, 2 = a few, 3 = about half, 4 = most, and 5 = all.

Table 4. Competency-based Instructional Approaches

For these items, students were asked how often the following activities happened in their classes.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Competency-based Instruction (construct)					
Nowell	112	4.11	0.66	2.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.09	0.17	3.91	4.36
My teachers share examples of student work for each major assignment to help me understand the expectations.					
Nowell	111	3.90	0.93	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.76	0.26	3.39	4.09
My teachers let me know how my work will be assessed or graded for each major assignment.					
Nowell	110	4.26	0.84	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.22	0.10	4.11	4.32
My teachers give me feedback (written or verbal) on my work that helps me improve my work.					
Nowell	110	4.38	0.84	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.28	0.20	4.07	4.59
My teachers use similar language—words or terms—when they give me feedback (written or verbal) on my work.					
Nowell	110	3.93	0.99	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.93	0.20	3.72	4.21
My teachers give me multiple chances to meet the expectations for an assignment.					
Nowell	109	4.18	0.81	2.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.26	0.17	4.06	4.52
My teachers give me multiple chances within a project or unit to show that I've mastered a skill.					
Nowell	110	4.12	0.84	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.15	0.22	3.87	4.49

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = never, 2 = seldom, 3 = sometimes, 4 = often, and 5 = always.

Table 5. Academic Rigor

For these items, students were asked to indicate for how many of their classes the following statements were true.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Academic Rigor (construct)					
Nowell	112	3.81	0.75	1.57	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.76	0.07	3.65	3.83
I understand my teacher's expectations for high-quality work.					
Nowell	108	4.10	0.82	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.18	0.06	4.10	4.26
My teacher accepts nothing less than my full effort.					
Nowell	112	4.05	0.96	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.05	0.10	3.92	4.21
Most assignments focus on a question that lacks an obvious answer.					
Nowell	109	3.48	1.09	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.28	0.19	3.04	3.48
Most assignments require me to do more than simply memorize things or look up facts or formulas.					
Nowell	106	3.74	1.07	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.67	0.13	3.52	3.82
Most assignments expose me to new ideas and perspectives.					
Nowell	112	3.75	0.98	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.70	0.16	3.57	3.97
Major assignments in my classes require multiple drafts so I can strengthen my argument.					
Nowell	110	3.68	1.00	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.57	0.15	3.40	3.71
Major assignments in my classes require multiple drafts so I can make my final product clearer.					
Nowell	110	3.72	0.96	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.58	0.11	3.44	3.72
Major assignments challenge me to do my very best work.					
Nowell	110	4.03	0.97	2.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.06	0.13	3.90	4.21

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = none, 2 = a few, 3 = about half, 4 = most, and 5 = all.

Table 6. Purpose

For these items, students were asked to indicate for how many of their classes the following statements were true.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Purpose (construct)					
Nowell	110	3.99	0.75	1.80	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.87	0.25	3.62	4.24
I understand the purpose of the work we do in class.					
Nowell	109	3.98	0.86	2.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.02	0.20	3.79	4.28
The assignments help me gain the skills and knowledge I need to make a positive change in my world.					
Nowell	107	4.00	0.88	2.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.96	0.26	3.67	4.35
The topics we learn about matter to me.					
Nowell	108	3.91	1.05	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.65	0.35	3.32	4.09
We study issues that are important to my community.					
Nowell	109	3.92	0.94	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.78	0.30	3.36	4.16
It's clear how what we are learning will help me after I finish high school.					
Nowell	108	4.04	0.96	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.84	0.27	3.56	4.20
I understand why what we are learning is important.					
Nowell	108	4.14	0.94	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.97	0.25	3.71	4.30

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = none, 2 = a few, 3 = about half, 4 = most, and 5 = all.

Table 7. Additional Item Related to Rigor and Purpose

For these items, students were asked to indicate for how many of their classes the following statements were true.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Students - not the teacher - do most of the talking.					
Nowell	107	3.27	1.04	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	2.97	0.17	2.86	3.27

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = none, 2 = a few, 3 = about half, 4 = most, and 5 = all.

Table 8. Items Related to Authenticity

For these items, students were asked how often the following activities happened in their classes.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Had outside experts or community members come to your class to discuss what you are learning?					
Nowell	111	2.45	1.28	0.00	4.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	2.35	0.40	2.00	3.00
Taken field trips connected to what you are learning in class?					
Nowell	110	2.27	1.45	0.00	4.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	1.50	0.63	0.67	2.27
Received feedback on your work from outside experts or community members?					
Nowell	110	2.10	1.43	0.00	4.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	1.69	0.35	1.19	2.10
Presented your work to an audience that includes outside experts or community members?					
Nowell	111	1.91	1.38	0.00	4.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	1.36	0.40	0.87	1.91

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 0 = never, 1 = once, 2 = twice, 3 = three times, and 4 = four or more times.

Table 9. Goal Setting

For these items, students were asked how true statements were for them.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Goal Setting (construct)					
Nowell	112	4.06	0.86	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.89	0.15	3.70	4.06
I set goals for my performance in school.					
Nowell	111	3.87	1.04	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.67	0.18	3.47	3.87
I know the steps I need to take to accomplish my goals.					
Nowell	112	4.12	0.90	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.98	0.14	3.80	4.12
I know whether or not I am on track to meet my goals.					
Nowell	111	4.11	0.94	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.89	0.19	3.63	4.11
I know the areas in which I need to improve to meet my goals.					
Nowell	110	4.07	0.97	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.98	0.10	3.84	4.08

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = not at all true, 2 = a little true, 3 = somewhat true, 4 = mostly true, and 5 = completely true.

Table 10. Growth Mindset

For these items, students were asked how true statements were for them.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Growth Mindset (construct)					
Nowell	112	4.12	0.82	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.98	0.14	3.82	4.12
I can become smarter by challenging myself.					
Nowell	112	4.23	0.86	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.10	0.17	3.90	4.28
I can do well in a subject even if I am not naturally good at it.					
Nowell	111	3.97	0.93	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.76	0.19	3.51	3.97
I can increase my intelligence with hard work.					
Nowell	111	4.13	0.93	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.09	0.11	3.99	4.26

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = not at all true, 2 = a little true, 3 = somewhat true, 4 = mostly true, and 5 = completely true.

Table 11. Self-efficacy

For these items, students were asked how true statements were for them.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Self-efficacy (construct)					
Nowell	112	4.15	0.76	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.99	0.17	3.80	4.15
I know I can do many different things well.					
Nowell	110	4.02	0.93	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.94	0.18	3.70	4.16
I believe I will be able to overcome challenges.					
Nowell	112	4.10	0.84	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.98	0.15	3.74	4.10
I know I can complete difficult tasks.					
Nowell	111	4.10	0.83	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.91	0.20	3.70	4.12
I believe I will be able to reach my goals.					
Nowell	111	4.31	0.78	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.08	0.20	3.83	4.31

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = not at all true, 2 = a little true, 3 = somewhat true, 4 = mostly true, and 5 = completely true.

Table 12. Collaboration

For these items, students were asked to think about the times this year that they worked in a group in class.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Collaboration (construct)					
Nowell	112	4.18	0.82	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.10	0.10	4.00	4.22
I considered everyone's ideas.					
Nowell	112	4.14	0.89	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.07	0.10	3.98	4.22
I paid attention when my teammates talked.					
Nowell	110	4.26	0.86	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.23	0.10	4.12	4.38
I helped my group figure out and fix any problem we faced.					
Nowell	111	4.15	0.86	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.05	0.14	3.86	4.23
I shared my ideas with my group.					
Nowell	109	4.13	0.98	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.99	0.18	3.78	4.13

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = not at all true, 2 = a little true, 3 = somewhat true, 4 = mostly true, and 5 = completely true.

Table 13. Social Awareness

For these items, students were asked how true statements were for them in the previous 30 days.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Social Awareness (construct)					
Nowell	110	4.19	0.79	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.11	0.19	3.87	4.36
I was respectful of others even when they disagreed with me.					
Nowell	109	4.11	0.96	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.03	0.27	3.65	4.38
I carefully listened to other people's points of view.					
Nowell	110	4.24	0.84	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.14	0.17	3.91	4.35
I got along with people who are different from me.					
Nowell	109	4.21	0.87	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.18	0.14	4.04	4.38

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = not at all true, 2 = a little true, 3 = somewhat true, 4 = mostly true, and 5 = completely true.

Table 14. Professional Communication

For these items, students were asked how well prepared they felt to do the following activities in a school or work environment.

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Professional Communication (construct)					
Nowell	111	3.60	1.01	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.41	0.18	3.20	3.60
Communicate in writing.					
Nowell	111	3.76	1.03	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.70	0.09	3.59	3.82
Communicate with adults outside of my family.					
Nowell	108	3.85	0.98	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.74	0.24	3.38	3.98
Make a presentation.					
Nowell	109	3.47	1.29	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.17	0.19	2.95	3.47
Speak in public.					
Nowell	108	3.33	1.36	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	2.97	0.35	2.59	3.33

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = I do not feel prepared, 2 = I feel slightly prepared, 3 = I feel moderately prepared, 4 = I feel well prepared, and 5 = I feel very well prepared.

Table 15. Overall Primary Person System

	N	Nowell	Beyond ENE Schools (n = 5)
This school year, is there an adult at your school who you have been assigned to meet with regularly to discuss your academic progress?	112	91.1%	82.6%

Table 16. Primary Person Meeting Frequency

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
This school year, about how often have you met one-on-one with this person?					
Nowell	100	4.14	1.24	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.52	0.40	3.05	4.14

Notes: Only asked of students who indicated that they have been assigned an adult to meet with regularly to discuss their academic progress. Responses fall on the following scale: 0 = never, 1 = once or twice this year, 2 = a few times this year, 3 = monthly or almost monthly, 4 = two or three times a month, and 5 = once a week or more.

Table 17. Primary Person Relationship

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
My advisor knows me well.					
Nowell	100	4.15	0.74	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.89	0.19	3.68	4.15
My advisor believes I can succeed.					
Nowell	100	4.37	0.75	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.44	0.11	4.30	4.57

Notes: Only asked of students who indicated that they have been assigned an adult to meet with regularly to discuss their academic progress. Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.

Table 18. On-track Knowledge

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
On-track Knowledge (construct)					
Nowell	112	4.05	0.72	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.18	0.09	4.05	4.29
I know what classes I need to take to graduate.					
Nowell	111	3.93	0.87	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.07	0.10	3.93	4.21
I know how I am doing in my classes right now.					
Nowell	112	4.10	0.83	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.18	0.18	4.04	4.46
I know what I need to do to improve my grades.					
Nowell	109	4.11	0.77	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.30	0.11	4.11	4.38

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.

Table 19. Postsecondary Guidance

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Postsecondary Guidance (construct)					
Nowell	112	3.95	0.71	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.81	0.13	3.67	3.95
My school has helped me understand what I want to do after I graduate from high school.					
Nowell	110	3.96	0.83	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.85	0.21	3.56	4.11
My school has helped me understand what kind of education or training I will need after high school to help prepare me for my possible career.					
Nowell	110	4.03	0.77	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.94	0.15	3.75	4.13
My school has helped me understand what high school courses I will need to get into college.					
Nowell	108	3.93	0.92	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.90	0.10	3.77	4.02
My school has helped me understand the financial benefit of attending college.					
Nowell	111	4.06	0.78	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.87	0.15	3.66	4.06
My school has encouraged me to consider a 4-year college.					
Nowell	111	3.81	0.89	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.63	0.16	3.39	3.81
My school has helped me understand my financial aid options (how to pay for college or a training program).					
Nowell	111	3.89	0.90	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	3.69	0.21	3.40	3.91

Notes: Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.

Table 20. Postsecondary Plan

	N	Nowell	Beyond ENE Schools (n = 5)
I have created a written postsecondary plan that describes what I will do after I graduate from high school.	111	50.5%	38.3%

Table 21. Postsecondary Plan Self-Efficacy

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Postsecondary Plan Self-Efficacy (construct)					
Nowell	56	4.21	0.74	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.27	0.07	4.21	4.40
I feel good about my plan.					
Nowell	55	4.06	0.93	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.21	0.14	4.06	4.40
I believe that I can achieve this plan.					
Nowell	55	4.26	0.75	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.30	0.06	4.25	4.40
I know what steps I need to take to achieve this plan.					
Nowell	55	4.18	0.80	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.27	0.08	4.18	4.36
I am confident that this plan is right for me					
Nowell	54	4.24	0.80	1.00	5.00
Beyond ENE School Means	5	4.28	0.09	4.19	4.40

Notes: Items only asked of students who indicated they have a written postsecondary plan. Responses fall on the following scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.

Table 22. Postsecondary Preparation Activities and Exploration

	N	Nowell	Beyond ENE Schools (n = 5)
During this school year, did you get help at school with resume writing?	112	59.8%	57.2%
During this school year, did you get help at school with cover letter writing?	112	60.7%	52.6%
I have researched a career that interests me.	112	73.2%	76.0%
I have reviewed college admissions requirements.	110	39.1%	47.3%
I have compared the costs of different colleges.	111	39.6%	49.0%
I have toured a college.	109	33.9%	35.9%
I have found out how much it would cost to attend college.	110	46.4%	54.8%

Table 23. Next Steps after High School

Students were asked what they plan to do immediately after high school.

	N	Nowell	Beyond ENE Schools (n = 5)
Attend a trade or technical school	23	20.7%	22.8%
Attend a 2-year college	32	28.8%	24.8%
Attend a 4-year college	30	27.0%	26.6%
Pursue my career full time, without continuing my education	15	13.5%	19.4%
Join the military	11	9.9%	6.4%
Total	111	100.0%	-

Table 24. Postsecondary Aspirations

Students were asked how far they would go in their education if they could do exactly what they wanted.

	N	Nowell	Beyond ENE Schools (n = 5)
Attend some high school	3	2.7%	3.0%
Graduate from high school	19	17.0%	22.2%
Attend some college	15	13.4%	14.8%
Graduate from a two-year college or technical/trade school	20	17.9%	18.1%
Graduate from a four-year college	23	20.5%	13.2%
Earn a master's or higher degree	32	28.6%	28.7%
Total	112	100.0%	-

Table 25. Postsecondary Expectations

Students were asked how far they THINK they would go in their education.

	N	Nowell	Beyond ENE Schools (n = 5)
Attend some high school	4	3.6%	1.9%
Graduate from high school	27	24.1%	29.7%
Attend some college	25	22.3%	18.8%
Graduate from a two-year college or technical/trade school	20	17.9%	20.0%
Graduate from a four-year college	15	13.4%	14.5%
Earn a master's or higher degree	21	18.8%	15.1%
Total	112	100.0%	-