

Elementary Student Testing Survey

Grades K – 5
Fountain City and Northshore Elementary
Tracy Horton
School Counselor

Student Groups

- Twenty-four students combined from Fountain City Elementary School and Northshore Elementary School were interviewed to ascertain their view of testing.
- Student responses to questions were categorized as positive, fluid (movable), or negative toward testing.
- Student responses, in order by number, favored positive, fluid, and then negative feelings.

Category of Responses

- Positive – students felt confident about testing.
- Fluid – students contemplated whether they felt optimistic or felt apprehension about exams depending on their confidence in knowing the material being tested.
- Negative – Students felt anxiety about assessments.

Student Selection

Ft. City Elementary	Northshore Elementary
<p>The principal asked the grade level teachers to select a male and a female student from each grade. Considerations were given to ESL identification, various performance levels, and the ability to talk to adults without intimidation.</p>	<p>The counselor asked two teachers from each grade to select a male or female student. Considerations were given to various performance levels, ethnic diversity, and the ability to talk without apprehension.</p>

Sample Student Questions

- Why do you take tests at school?
- What are all of the different kinds of tests that you take?
- Which tests do you think are good tests? Why? (Pick from the emotion cards how these tests make you feel.)
- Which tests are not good tests? Why? (Pick from the emotions cards how these tests make you feel.)

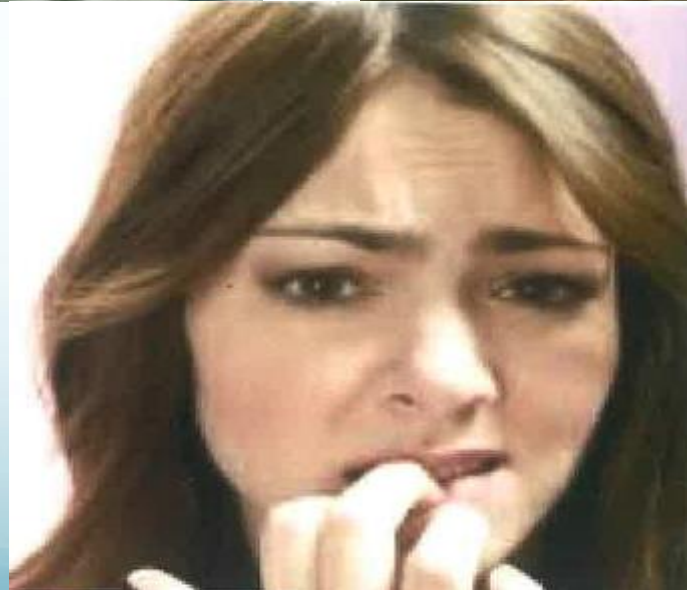
Identification Photos of Positive Feelings



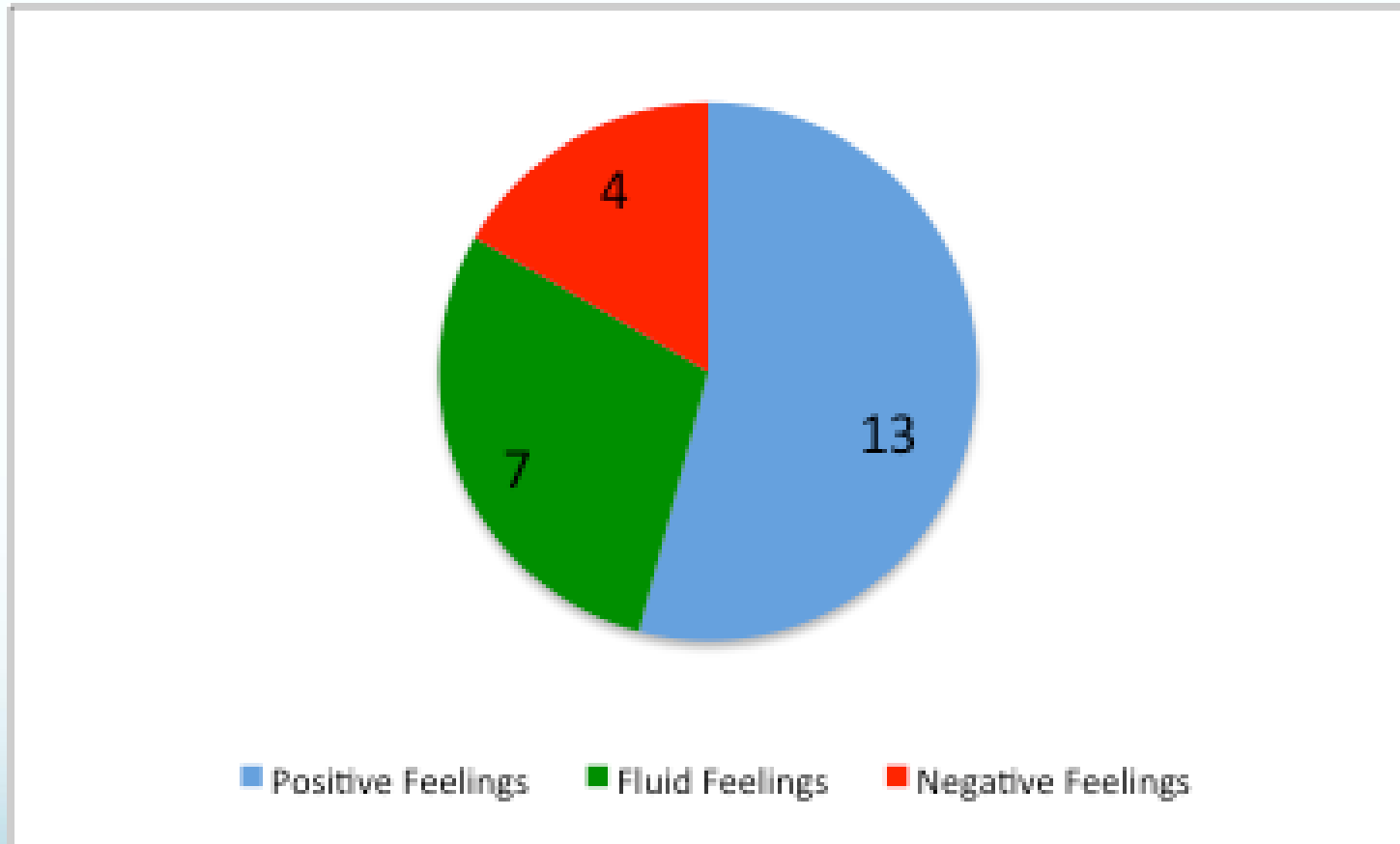
Identification Photos of Fluid Feelings



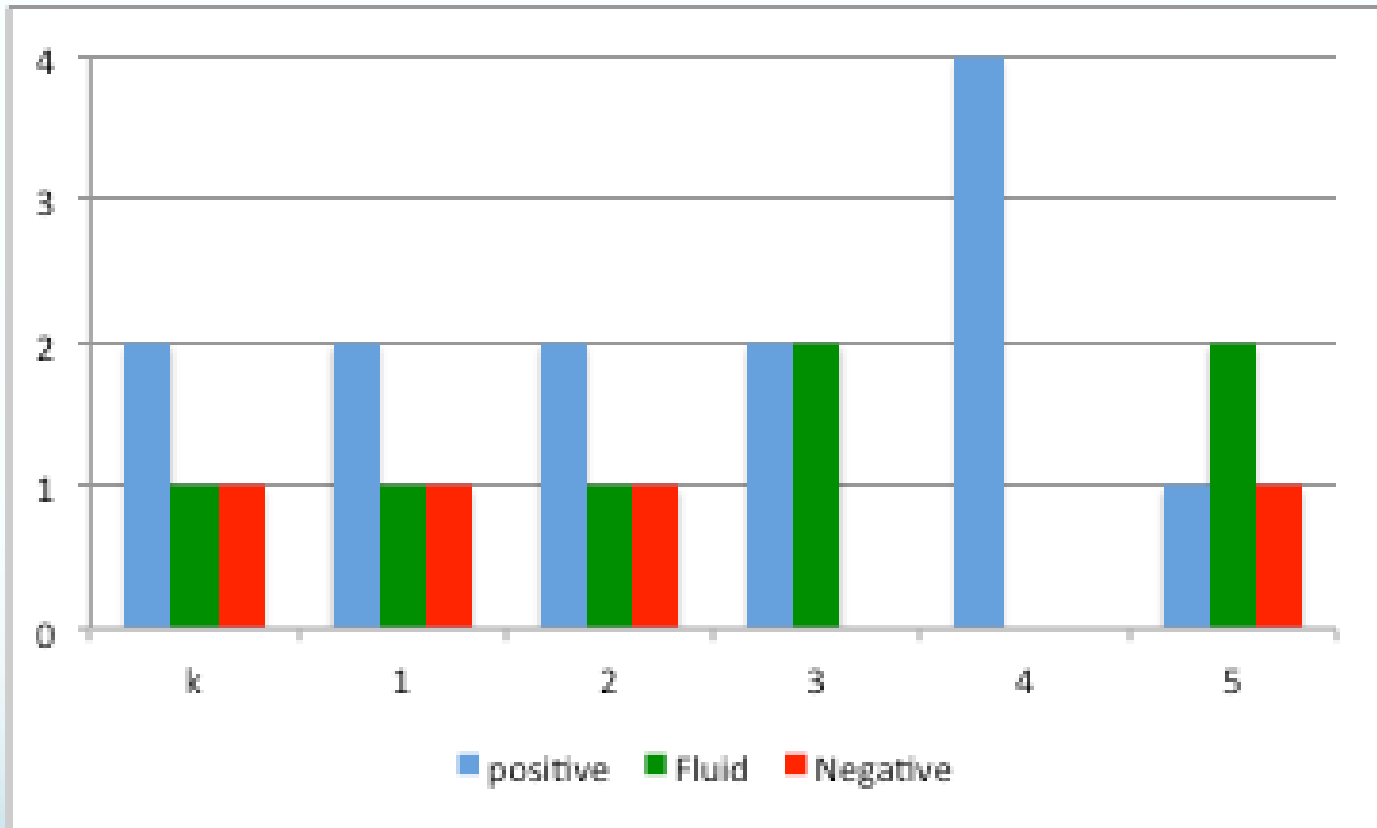
Identification Photos of Negative Feelings



Analysis of Student's Feelings



Comparison by Grade



Student Assessment Summary

- Students surveyed from both elementary schools most often described their feelings toward testing as positive.
- The second emotion that was most often selected by students to describe their feelings toward testing was fluid. This is a term that includes both feelings of confidence and/or anxiety depending on the particular test.
- The third feeling students selected when describing their feelings toward testing was one of anxiety.

Sample Student's Response

- We take tests so teachers can see what you know.
- Tests make you smarter. If you make a mistake (then) you'll remember next time.
- I like tests. I like getting good grades. It is the quietest time in the classroom.
- I like to take tests on the computer but I want scratch paper.
- We take tests for our future. If we fail, we will probably fail our future.

Sample Student's Response

- If I get a bad grade (then) I get in trouble at home.
- Tests go in the grade book to see if you are held back. They (teachers) see if you have been listening. They see if you have courage in certain subjects.
- When I do well I get excited. When I don't, I study more. I just take the test and don't really think about it.
- Tests make sure you can pass. They make sure you are not daydreaming and make sure you are learning.

“Tests Help Us Learn”

