

Unit 2, Activity 4: Take action

Purpose	To apply the research-based ideas by projecting potential strategies and actions.
Time	65 minutes
Required roles	Participants; facilitator; notetaker

Role play and discussion

Approximate time: 50 minutes

The facilitator divides participants into three groups (or more, depending on number of participants) and assigns one role to each group. To begin, members of the groups determine and describe the lens through which their group interprets and expresses their concerns about school climate. The notetaker for each group uses the chart on pages 1–3 to record ideas and expressions of concern. Each group presents their concerns from their point of view. An example is given for “Students” in green type.

Group	Lens	Expression of concerns	Strategies/Actions
Students	The lens is for middle school students anxious about transition from elementary to middle school.	At first, they are concerned that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We won’t find lockers or get to class on time. - We’re unable to keep up. - The teachers will be mean. - We will be too different or unable to make new friends. 	Arrange for pre-enrollment visits to middle school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assign older student “buddies.” - Walk about and talk to students. - Encourage students to get involved. - Reach out to families.
Students			

Group	Lens	Expression of concerns	Strategies/Actions
Parents			
Teachers			
Whole school community			
School support staff (e.g. counselors, librarians)			

Group	Lens	Expression of concerns	Strategies/Actions
School leadership team			

Individual reflection

Approximate time: 15 minutes

How do principals leverage positive perceptions in one group to improve perceptions in others in order to change the overall school climate?