

2009 Teacher Survey Summary

Boston Schoolyard Initiative (BSI)

The following data was collected by BSI staff through a Survey Monkey instrument in summer 2009. The survey was sent to BPS teachers who had taken BSI professional development courses between 2005 and 2009. About 20% completed the survey.

1. Does your school have a renovated schoolyard?

	answered question		19
	skipped question		0
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		47.4%	9
No		52.6%	10

2. Does your school have an outdoor classroom (an area specifically designed for teaching)?

	answered question		19
	skipped question		0

2. Does your school have an outdoor classroom (an area specifically designed for teaching)?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	31.6%	6
No	68.4%	13

3. Have you taken any in-service courses offered by BSI? (Check all that apply)

answered question		19
skipped question		0
	Response Percent	Response Count
Introduction to Taking Science Outdoors (2005-06)	5.3%	1

3. Have you taken any in-service courses offered by BSI? (Check all that apply)

Science in the Schoolyard: Taking the FOSS & STC Kits Outdoors (2006-2009)	42.1%	8
Outdoor Writers Workshop: an Introduction (2006-2009)	36.8%	7
Launching Outdoor Writers Workshop K0-Grade 1 (Spring 2009)	21.1%	4
Using Outdoor Writers Workshop to Support Nonfiction Writing (Spring 2009)	0.0%	0

4. How often do you use the schoolyard and/or Outdoor Classroom as an integral part of class time?

answered question	18
skipped question	1

4. How often do you use the schoolyard and/or Outdoor Classroom as an integral part of class time?

	Response Percent	Response Count
I don't feel prepared/or am not interested in using it at this time	0.0%	0
I am intrigued by the idea but haven't used it regularly	22.2%	4
I have begun to use it occasionally to support instruction	22.2%	4
I used it as an integral part of instruction for a specific unit	16.7%	3
I use it as an integral part of my teaching throughout the year	38.9%	7

5. Please rate the impact of these resources on the extent to which you use the schoolyard and/or Outdoor Classroom to support instruction:

	answered question			18
	skipped question			1
	Little or No impact	Helpful	Significant impact	Response Count
Renovated schoolyard	28.6% (4)	14.3% (2)	57.1% (8)	14
Outdoor classroom	28.6% (4)	28.6% (4)	42.9% (6)	14
Science in the Schoolyard course(s)	26.7% (4)	40.0% (6)	33.3% (5)	15
Outdoor Writers Workshop course(s)	9.1% (1)	54.5% (6)	36.4% (4)	11

6. Before taking the Science in the Schoolyard or Outdoor Writers Workshop course(s) how often did you use the schoolyard and/or outdoor classroom for instruction?

	answered question		19
	skipped question		0
		Response Percent	Response Count
Never		31.6%	6
Several times/year		10.5%	2
1-3 times/month		31.6%	6
1 day/week		10.5%	2
2-3 days/week		15.8%	3
Everyday		0.0%	0

7. After taking the above course(s) how often do you use the schoolyard for instruction?

		Response Percent	Response Count
answered question			19
skipped question			0
		Response Percent	Response Count
Never		0.0%	0
Several times/year		21.1%	4
1-3 times/month		21.1%	4
1 day/week		26.3%	5
2-3 days/week		31.6%	6
Everyday		0.0%	0

8. If your schoolyard has an Outdoor Classroom (an area of the schoolyard specifically designed for teaching) answer the next two questions. If not, skip ahead to question #10 Before your school had an outdoor classroom how often did you use the schoolyard and/or outdoor classroom for instruction?

	answered question		8
	skipped question		11
		Response Percent	Response Count
Never		25.0%	2
Several times/year		12.5%	1
1-3 times/month		25.0%	2
1 day/week		25.0%	2
2-3 days/week		12.5%	1
Everyday		0.0%	0

9. After getting an outdoor classroom at your school how often do you use the schoolyard for instruction?

	answered question		7
	skipped question		12
		Response Percent	Response Count
Never		0.0%	0
Several times/year		0.0%	0
1-3 times/month		28.6%	2
1 day/week		28.6%	2
2-3 days/week		42.9%	3

9. After getting an outdoor classroom at your school how often do you use the schoolyard for instruction?

Everyday	0.0%	0
----------	------	---

10. Do you take classes outside in (Check all that apply)

answered question	19
-------------------	----

skipped question	0
------------------	---

	Response Percent	Response Count
--	------------------	----------------

Fall	89.5%	17
------	-------	----

Winter	47.4%	9
--------	-------	---

Spring	94.7%	18
--------	-------	----

10. Do you take classes outside in (Check all that apply)

Summer (summer school)	36.8%	7
------------------------	-------	---

11. Have you taken other (non BSI) courses that have supported your outdoor instruction?

answered question	19
-------------------	----

skipped question	0
------------------	---

	Response Percent	Response Count
--	------------------	----------------

Yes	68.4%	13
-----	-------	----

No	31.6%	6
----	-------	---

12. If you took the Outdoor Writers Workshop Course answer the next two questions, if you did not, skip ahead to question # 14: How well did the OWW Course(s) prepare you in the following areas:

12. If you took the Outdoor Writers Workshop Course answer the next two questions, if you did not, skip ahead to question # 14: How well did the OWW Course(s) prepare you in the following areas:

	answered question					9
	skipped question					10
	Unsure	Comfortable trying	Confident	Very confident	Response Count	
Outdoor Classroom Management	11.1% (1)	11.1% (1)	55.6% (5)	22.2% (2)	9	
Handling safety concerns outdoors	11.1% (1)	11.1% (1)	44.4% (4)	33.3% (3)	9	
Structuring an outdoor lesson	0.0% (0)	22.2% (2)	44.4% (4)	33.3% (3)	9	
Linking OWW to classroom writing instruction	0.0% (0)	22.2% (2)	55.6% (5)	22.2% (2)	9	

12. If you took the Outdoor Writers Workshop Course answer the next two questions, if you did not, skip ahead to question # 14: How well did the OWW Course(s) prepare you in the following areas:

Linking OWW to the ELA standards	11.1% (1)	11.1% (1)	55.6% (5)	22.2% (2)	9
Helping students use the outdoors to develop oral language skills	11.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	55.6% (5)	33.3% (3)	9
Helping students use the outdoors to gather seed ideas	0.0% (0)	11.1% (1)	55.6% (5)	33.3% (3)	9
Helping students use the outdoors to refine and develop drafts	22.2% (2)	22.2% (2)	22.2% (2)	33.3% (3)	9
Helping students learn to love writing or “to see themselves as writers”	0.0% (0)	11.1% (1)	55.6% (5)	33.3% (3)	9

12. If you took the Outdoor Writers Workshop Course answer the next two questions, if you did not, skip ahead to question # 14: How well did the OWW Course(s) prepare you in the following areas:

Developing connections between science and literacy	11.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	44.4% (4)	44.4% (4)	9
Other (please specify) Show replies					1

13. Please note the areas in which you feel using the schoolyard and/or outdoor classroom has had an impact on your students' writing?

	answered question			10
	skipped question			9
	Not at all	Some improvement	Significant improvement	Response Count
Oral language skills	11.1% (1)	66.7% (6)	22.2% (2)	9

13. Please note the areas in which you feel using the schoolyard and/or outdoor classroom has had an impact on your students' writing?

Motivation to write	0.0% (0)	50.0% (5)	50.0% (5)	10
Writing stamina	40.0% (4)	10.0% (1)	50.0% (5)	10
Ease finding something to write about	10.0% (1)	60.0% (6)	30.0% (3)	10
Level of detail	10.0% (1)	60.0% (6)	30.0% (3)	10
Use of richer vocabulary	10.0% (1)	60.0% (6)	30.0% (3)	10
Clearer development of voice	30.0% (3)	40.0% (4)	30.0% (3)	10
Increased fluency	30.0% (3)	50.0% (5)	20.0% (2)	10
Organization of ideas	50.0% (5)	30.0% (3)	20.0% (2)	10
Self-confidence as a writer	10.0% (1)	50.0% (5)	40.0% (4)	10

13. Please note the areas in which you feel using the schoolyard and/or outdoor classroom has had an impact on your students' writing?

Other (please specify) 2
 Show replies

14. If you took a Science in the Schoolyard (SSY) course answer the next two questions, otherwise skip to question #16, How well did the SSY Course(s) prepare you in the following areas:

	answered question					6
	skipped question					13
	Unsure	Comfortable trying	Confident	Very confident	Response Count	
Outdoor Classroom Management	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	50.0% (3)	16.7% (1)	6	
Handling safety concerns outdoors	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	33.3% (2)	33.3% (2)	6	

14. If you took a Science in the Schoolyard (SSY) course answer the next two questions, otherwise skip to question #16, How well did the SSY Course(s) prepare you in the following areas:

Structuring an outdoor lesson	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	33.3% (2)	33.3% (2)	6
Finding the "science resources" that exist in my schoolyard	0.0% (0)	20.0% (1)	20.0% (1)	60.0% (3)	5
Using SSY Guides to Taking the FOSS Kits Outdoors	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	50.0% (3)	6
Outdoor materials management	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	33.3% (2)	50.0% (3)	6
Supporting student inquiry	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	50.0% (3)	33.3% (2)	6
Linking the outdoor experience to the	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	50.0% (3)	6

14. If you took a Science in the Schoolyard (SSY) course answer the next two questions, otherwise skip to question #16, How well did the SSY Course(s) prepare you in the following areas:

Kit Investigation

Helping students make real world connections	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	66.7% (4)	6
--	----------	----------	-----------	-----------	---

Helping students find living organisms in the schoolyard	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	50.0% (3)	6
--	----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	---

Helping students make sense of their outdoor investigations	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	50.0% (3)	6
---	----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	---

Developing connections between science and literacy	0.0% (0)	60.0% (3)	0.0% (0)	40.0% (2)	5
---	----------	-----------	----------	-----------	---

Other (please specify) Show replies					1
--	--	--	--	--	---

15. Using the schoolyard and/or outdoor classroom to support science instruction has helped my students:

	answered question				12
	skipped question				7
	Disagree	No opinion	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Count
Become more interested in science	0.0% (0)	8.3% (1)	41.7% (5)	50.0% (6)	12
Become better observers	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	41.7% (5)	58.3% (7)	12
Learn the content of the kits	0.0% (0)	33.3% (4)	25.0% (3)	41.7% (5)	12
Make connections to the real world	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	41.7% (5)	58.3% (7)	12
Understand science concepts they struggle	0.0% (0)	16.7% (2)	58.3% (7)	25.0% (3)	12

15. Using the schoolyard and/or outdoor classroom to support science instruction has helped my students:

with

Communicate their science thinking	0.0% (0)	9.1% (1)	63.6% (7)	27.3% (3)	11
Use science vocabulary in context	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	66.7% (8)	33.3% (4)	12
Develop better measurement and/or data collection skills	0.0% (0)	16.7% (2)	50.0% (6)	33.3% (4)	12
Apply concepts	0.0% (0)	16.7% (2)	41.7% (5)	41.7% (5)	12
See themselves as “scientists”	0.0% (0)	8.3% (1)	41.7% (5)	50.0% (6)	12
Understand the needs of living things	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	41.7% (5)	58.3% (7)	12

15. Using the schoolyard and/or outdoor classroom to support science instruction has helped my students:

Other (please specify)
Show replies

3

16. Name of school (optional)

answered question

8

skipped question

11

Response
Count

Show replies

8

17. What do you teach? Check all that apply

answered question

19

17. What do you teach? Check all that apply

skipped question		0
	Response Percent	Response Count
K0	15.8%	3
K1	21.1%	4
K2	36.8%	7
Grade 1	26.3%	5
2	36.8%	7
3	31.6%	6
4	21.1%	4

17. What do you teach? Check all that apply

5	21.1%	4
6	10.5%	2
7	10.5%	2
8	10.5%	2
Science Specialist	15.8%	3
Literacy Coach	0.0%	0
Gym teacher	5.3%	1
Art specialist	0.0%	0
Family Outreach Coordinator	0.0%	0

17. What do you teach? Check all that apply

Other (please specify)	2
Show replies	

18. If your school has an outdoor classroom (an area of the schoolyard specifically designed for teaching), on the list below please check the 5 most important reasons you find it useful for teaching outdoors:

answered question	9
-------------------	---

skipped question	10
------------------	----

Response Percent	Response Count
---------------------	-------------------

Provides ready access to materials we are studying (earth materials, decomposition, plant and animal life, etc.)	66.7%	6
---	-------	---

Allows me to use the outdoors more because it facilitates	33.3%	3
---	-------	---

18. If your school has an outdoor classroom (an area of the schoolyard specifically designed for teaching), on the list below please check the 5 most important reasons you find it useful for teaching outdoors:

classroom management

Supports student inquiry by providing clear boundaries within which students are free to explore	66.7%	6
--	-------	---

Helps signal to students that we are outdoors to work	22.2%	2
---	-------	---

Provides access to specific tools (thermometers, wind vanes)	11.1%	1
--	-------	---

Provides a space in which students feel more comfortable	33.3%	3
--	-------	---

Gives students an experience of being exposed to the natural world	100.0%	9
--	--------	---

18. If your school has an outdoor classroom (an area of the schoolyard specifically designed for teaching), on the list below please check the 5 most important reasons you find it useful for teaching outdoors:

Gives students a feeling of responsibility and stewardship for a particular place	66.7%	6
---	-------	---

Creates a common experience for my students	88.9%	8
---	-------	---