

Gauging the Climate for Reform

Gauging the Climate for Reform can help you identify local climate components that could influence your TQI. Approach this exercise as if you were predicting the weather: sunny, stormy, or fair. Record specific details about the climate in the Observations/Notes column; use Overall Rating for a quick assessment—“sunny” for components that facilitate, “stormy” for components that impede, and “fair” for components needing further investigation to determine their impact.

- Who:** The TQI team
Time to complete: 1 hour
Resources needed:
- Quiet place to work
 - Organization’s annual report
 - Flipchart and markers

COMPONENT	SOURCES OF EVIDENCE	OBSERVATIONS/NOTES	OVERALL RATING
<p>Political climate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Recent laws and policies related to education/teacher quality ■ Proposed laws and policies related to education/teacher quality: look for opportunities to build coalitions ■ Status of/changes in governance structures, political party control, relevant political timing variables such as election years ■ Status of/changes in political, policy, and opinion leaders/gatekeepers—individuals who can grant or deny access to leaders ■ Media stories on recent events, scandals, issues ■ Public comments on education by elected officials in press releases, at meetings, in newspaper articles, on TV/radio 		  
<p>Public mood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public opinion forums: newspapers, TV/radio talk shows, public meetings, public polls and surveys ■ Voter participation rates ■ Election/referendum results ■ Citizen participation in civic, campaign, and volunteer activities ■ Demonstrations, rallies, protests 		

COMPONENT	SOURCES OF EVIDENCE	OBSERVATIONS/NOTES	OVERALL RATING
Economic climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ State budget ■ City/county budget ■ School district budget ■ Proposed school financing changes: tax hikes, bond offerings, creation of business incentive zones, lottery proposals ■ Unemployment rate ■ Positions/public comments on budget by elected officials 		
Existence of other community initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promotion materials of other organizations: newsletters, press releases, public service announcements (PSAs) ■ Formal or informal networks of nonprofit organizations ■ Media stories about other initiatives 		