What are CCSSE special-focus items?

In order to keep the survey fresh and relevant for the community college field, the Center each year selects a special-focus topic and develops five new items to administer with CCSSE. This enables colleges to more deeply explore certain issues that are key to improved student engagement and success.

All colleges receive the five special-focus items as part of their CCSSE administration. Students are asked to mark their responses under “Additional Items” at the end of the survey. The results from these items are provided as frequency distributions with colleges’ standard CCSSE reports.

2021’s COVID-19 Impact items

Colleges that participate in CCSSE 2021 will receive five special-focus items about COVID-19 (shown below). These items are designed to help your institution gauge the impact of COVID-19 on students.

Mark only one response for each item

1. How would you describe your current personal financial situation?
   a. It is better than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic
   b. It is worse than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic
   c. It is about the same as it was before the COVID-19 pandemic
   d. I am not sure

2. Are you struggling to pay for college?
   a. No
   b. Yes, I am struggling to pay for college as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
   c. Yes, I am struggling to pay for college, but it is not a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

3. Does this college have support services to help students cope with stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. I do not know
4. Since the beginning of this academic term at this college, I have tried to avoid situations on campus in which I am unable to stay six feet away from another person.
   a. Strongly agree
   b. Agree
   c. Disagree
   d. Strongly disagree
   e. Not applicable because I have not been on campus at this college this academic term*

5. Are you able to access the Internet at your home when you need it for your coursework at this college?
   a. Yes, and it is reliable
   b. Yes, but it is not always reliable
   c. No, I cannot access the Internet at my home
   d. My coursework at this college does not require me to work online

*Response will only appear on online survey